Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Risquet, Dos Santos Discuss Southwest Africa

FL1208161588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1445 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Today Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos met in Luanda with PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet to examine anew the situation in southwestern Africa.

Risquet, who is also secretary of the PCC Central Committee, represents our country in the quadripartite negotiating process to establish peace in Angola and independence in Namibia.

A short time ago, the Angolan president received Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, to discuss the application of the UN Security Council resolution on Namibia's independence.

Delegations from Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States recently met in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss establishing a long-lasting peace in southwestern Africa.

RSA Reportedly Not Complying With Accords

FL1208225088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The racist troops that occupy southern Angola have not begun to leave yet. South Africa officially declared that the withdrawal will not begin until all the preparatory stages for that operation are completed.

In accordance with what was agreed among Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States, Pretoria should have begun its withdrawal last Wednesday and have completed it by 1 September. Therefore, it has not begun to comply with the Geneva agreements.

On the other hand, Manuel Pedro Pacavira, Angolan permanent representative to the United Nations, said that his country will provide jobs and housing to UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] members who (?lay down) their arms and surrender to the authorities. He also dismissed any possibilities of the government holding talks with those bands which he termed as armed (?formations) of South Africa.

Arias on Hopes for Further Talks With Castro

FL1208174688 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Report by Orlando Contreras from Quito, Ecuador]

[Text] As reported, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias held a news conference yesterday. Included among the many topics broached was his meeting with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The Costa Rican president said that the information he had on Fidel, whom he had never met before, came from the media and also from books he had read about the Cuban leader. Asked his opinion after meeting Castro personally, Arias said the following:

[Begin Arias recording] It is evident that he has a very strong personality. He is very knowledgeable about world politics. (?There are many subjects) we could have discussed for an hour and a half. I think we should meet again, frankly, because we must talk not only about Central America. The topic of Central America is not exhausted; it is too deep. It requires many hours, if not days. He needs to know even more about my purpose in achieving peace, the basic reasons that led me to propose this peace plan. However, there are many other very important subjects that are still on the agenda. I would like one day to discuss them. For instance, the foreign debt, the future of democracy on our subcontinent, and, of course, many more problems involving conflicts in the rest of the world which we have not been able to examine. [end recording]

President Arias said he would like to meet with President Castro again.

Alfonsin Said Satisfied With Castro Meeting

FL1208154088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1433 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Today Argentine President Raul Alfonsin expressed his satisfaction in Buenos Aires with his meetings in Quito with several heads of state, especially with our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega.

Alfonsin said he analyzed with all the presidents the problem of the foreign debt, declining international prices, and the possibilities for Latin American integration, as well as other matters of interest.

Latin American countries continue to discuss the debt, and it will certainly be a very important topic at the Group of Eight meeting in October in Uruguay, said the Argentine president upon his return from Quito.

In conclusion, Alfonsin reiterated that his government continues to stress the need for Latin American integration and is willing to take the necessary steps to attain this.

Uruguay's Sanguinetti Cited on Castro Talks

FL1208152588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1432 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] This morning Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti returned to Montevideo after participating in the inauguration of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja.

In the meantime, the Uruguayan press has given ample coverage to his meeting in Quito with our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The pro-government daily newspapers EL DIA and LA MANANA and the conservative paper EL PAIS published on their front pages a picture of the meeting held in Quito by the Cuban and Uruguayan presidents.

LA MANANA reported that the meeting lasted 1 and ½ hours and was held in Quito's Colon Hotel. The article stressed that at the conclusion of the talks, Sanguinetti said the meeting with Fidel was very positive and constructive because in Latin America there is a dialogue that transcends differences.

The independent morning newspaper LA REPUBLICA also reported on the meeting between Fidel and Sanguinetti and described their meeting as frank and cordial.

Ortega Visit to Ecuador Termed 'Historic'

PA1508003588 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Aug 88

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Only 24 hours after the inauguration of the new Ecuadoran president, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in that South American country for what may be regarded as a historic visit, inasmuch as it represents a high point in the region's hopes for integration.

The resumption of relations with Nicaragua is the new Ecuadoran Government's first foreign policy act. However, in view of the situation in Central America, this fact, together with the presence of Daniel Ortega in Ecuador, leads us to the conclusion that a new era has begun for Latin America.

The winds of integration have been blowing for a long time in all the countries of this, our America, and the recent inauguration of a new administration in Ecuador, attended by many heads of state, confirms this single-minded effort as the only valid way to resolve the hemisphere's problems.

The presence in Ecuador of such heads of state as Virgilio Barco of Colombia, Raul Alfonsin of Argentina, Julio Maria Sanguinetti of Uruguay, Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, and Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega, of Cuba and Nicaragua, respectively, shows that in spite of differences in political and ideological tendencies, joint efforts are essential to overcoming problems. Everything indicates that a dialogue has been proposed in Ecuador, a dialogue in which economic problems, the strengthening of mechanisms that contribute to peace, and, in general, the good will to carry out projects involving all aspects of cooperation play a leading role.

If the presence of Cuba's president in Ecuador is important, the presence of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is no less so, since he represents both the dignity and courage of a people who are permanently engaged in fighting external aggression and the constant struggle to maintain ties with the rest of the Latin American countries.

Without a doubt, Ortega's visit, and the resumption of relations between Ecuador and Nicaragua, represent a defeat for U.S. foreign policy in the region, because, until the very last minute, President Reagan's special envoys have tried to divide and pressure Central American countries into condemning the Sandinist government. The special envoys failed in their attempts and the proposals for unity, already being outlined throughout Latin America, have caused the ideals of Bolivar concerning the need for integration to face the imperialists to resurface.

Unreal Expectations of Critics Condemned

FL1208203588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2318 GMT 11 Aug 88

["Can It Be Possible?" segment by Radio Rebelde Director Juan Hernandez Diaz]

[Text] Can it be possible that there are still people today who believe that socialism is something magic, something that comes out of a magic lamp to resolve problems? We ask this question because apparently this kind of people still exist: excessively critical people who think they always have the wisest answers to the severest difficulties. They are those who make comparisons with highly developed countries at the expense of underdevelopment and fail to compare our reality with a world closer to ours.

This applies to those individuals who have in other instances been described as people who want to have universities and hospitals, schools and careers, employment, transportation, recreation, art and culture. They have a right to all that. However, their effort contributes little to what we need. They feign difficulty in understanding why some products are exported instead of being consumed here. They pretend to find it inexplicable, for example, that a ton of lobster, as recently stated, helps to guarantee a liter of milk for each of the 200 000 children in Cuba. I recall that Comrade Raul gave those dreamers, prisoners of their own unreality, an accurate label: cafe au lait politicians.

Let's not confuse these people with those who justly criticize shoddy work, poor service, or other manifestations of the many vices that still persist. Socialism is a system open to criticism because criticism goes along with socialism. This we can see each day, including in this very program. However, we are referring to serious criticism and not fantasy, criticism that helps, that contributes to shedding light on problems whose solutions depend on ourselves, to resolve even our defects, which are not few. It is in this direction that we can and should be critical everywhere, being wary always of

unreal solutions and explaining things without fear. In the end, revolutionary awareness is not a gift from history or a spontaneous result. It is acquired through daily struggle.

Can it be possible that we do not understand this?

Caricom

Common Position for Radio Conference Sought

FL1008224088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1944 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 9, CANA—Caribbean telecommunications experts began work here on Tuesday on a common position in preparation for the World Administrative Radio Conference—WARC-ORB 88—taking place later this month in Geneva.

WARC-ORB 88 will be an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) conference aimed at determining globally definitive allocation of the use of orbital space, among other issues. "In the past, we have suffered from a series of international decisions being taken in this area without our full participation or involvement and which, in some regards fundamentally, disregarded our interests," the Caribbean Community's (Caricom) deputy secretary general, Louis Wiltshire told participants at a brief opening session. "We've had problems with frequency allocations..."

Twelve of the 13 Caribbean Community member states are participating in the meeting. The meeting is taking place at the Trinidad and Tobago External Telecommunications Company (Textel).

Host general manager, Lennox Worrell said that even if a consensus was not achieved, it was a significant step that regional governments should get together to understand one anothers position before they negotiate on an international level. Worrell said the experts still needed to keep co-operation, collaboration, and trust as their goal. "I hope that enough has been said to convince you that, whether we like it or not, we of the Caribbean are in the middle of a test of strength, a test of nerves, and principles, on a massive trade thrust", Worrell said. He said it was "because of our hitherto separate and insular positions, not only geographically but also organisationally within each country, that we are vulnerable to the pressures around us."

Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago's state owned radio station, NBS 610, Ken Ablack, leader of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, was elected chairman of the Port-of-Spain session.

Dominican Republic

Bosch on Uniting Trade Unions Into One Group

FL1208141788 Santo Domingo Radio Central Network in Spanish 1005 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Former President Prof Juan Bosch has praised the good reception the idea of forming a single trade union federation has received from the entire trade union movement.

Yesterday Bosch gave a talk to leaders of the Autonomous Confederation of Trade Unions on the need for unity among the workers.

He said that Dominican workers are not aware how important they are. Each one by himself will achieve nothing, he said. Bosch said the possibilities are very good for unifying all the trade unions into one organization that truly fights for the interests of those who are exploited.

[Begin Bosch recording] You also are not aware of this, but it is being worked on. Trade unions are carrying out much work to attain unity. Trade union leaders are constantly holding meetings. [end recording]

Haiti

Bishops' Message Says 'Things Must Change'

FL1208161988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Message issued by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti (CEH)—date and place not given]

[Text] Brothers and sisters: We have already, on several occasions, discussed the difficult situation the Haitian people are going through. We also know that many of you are waiting to hear from us again, especially after the events of the past few months. Today, once again, in the midst of all the hard blows being dealt you, in the midst of all your suffering, and in the midst of all your efforts, we want you to know that we have not abandoned you.

The events of the past few weeks—and most especially the events of Friday, 5 August, in Grand Goave, when the government expelled Father Rene Poirier from Haiti—cannot fail to upset us because of the way they sent him away. In the name of the rights and dignity of all men, in the name of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we protest with all our force the way they expelled Father Poirier.

They did not permit him to contact either the father superior of the Clerks of St Viator or the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. They seized Father Poirier at the presbytery in Grand Goave, took him to the Port-au-Prince airport, and put him on a plane back to his country.

Many bad things have happened in Haiti that our consciences as human beings and as Christians do not condone.

On 19 June 1988, the Haitian Army seized power. It abolished the Constitution although it had sworn, on that very Constitution, to respect it. As regards security, people's lives to this day have no value in Haiti. Now and then we hear that someone has been killed here and someone else there. In Port-au-Prince, for example, there was Lafontant Joseph, a lawyer who defended human rights in Haiti. Likewise in Cap Haitien, Leogane, Morne Cabrit, Cabaret, and so forth.

In (Danty), which is part of the parish of Gros Morne, peasants are beaten and killed and their houses burned down. Many of the victims end up on the streets empty-handed, without resources. In Fond Verrettes, they attacked the presbytery and sowed terror. The priest and the nuns were forced to leave the parish. In Dessalines, too, the parish priest was forced to leave the area. In La Gonave, they even shot at the population. In Boucan Michel, (?a section of) Le Borgne, the population is living in fear, because they are sowing terror there. In many parishes, committed laymen are under surveillance. They are being spied on, and they are also being heavily pressured. In Cayes Jacmel, they have burned the priest's small motorboat and they are persecuting those who are working at enlightening the people.

The young people's situation is a sad one, because their futures are blocked. They deserve special attention, so that they will be able to see clearly and will not be discouraged and tempted to take another path.

Amid all these upsetting things, the entire church suffers. It is in the name of our faith in Jesus Christ, in the name of the mission of announcing the good news of salvation and of establishing the kingdom of God everywhere given by Jesus to his church that we say today: Things must change.

No one can live comfortably in such an insecure situation, in which we are asking ourselves many questions, such as: Don't people have a right to live? Don't people have a right to work and to learn? Don't people have a right to assemble to talk and to defend their rights? Is there respect for the life and dignity of the individual? Is there impartial justice for all?

Brethren, we have heard your cry. We have heard the cry of the population of Grand Goave. We have heard the cry of all the priests, nuns, monks, and laymen. We have heard the cry of the young people. We have heard the cry of all the victims of the high cost of living, of unemployment, of fear, and of death. We cannot fail to tell you how much we are suffering along with you.

We understand you. We are in solidarity with you. We are praying along with you.

We wish to tell the members of the order of the Clerks of St Viator that we especially share their pain.

Brothers and sisters from among God's people, we want to tell you that God is not abandoning you. The path of democracy is long and difficult, but do not be discouraged. Continue to struggle under the banner of Jesus Christ. Continue to progress under the mantle of Holy Mother the Virgin Mary. You will arrive.

[Signed] Msgr Francois Gayot, bishop of Cap Haitien, Chairman of the CEH; Msgr Francois Wolf Ligonde, bishop of Port-au-Prince; Msgr Leonard Petion Laroche, bishop of Hinche, Deputy Chairman of the CEH; Msgr Emmanuel Constant, bishop of Gonaives, who is currently on a pastoral mission; Msgr Joseph Lafontant, auxiliary bishop of Port-au-Prince and Secretary General of the CEH; Msgr Willy Romelus, bishop of Jeremie; Msgr Alix Verrier, bishop of Les Cayes; Msgr Louis Kebreau, auxiliary bishop of Port-au-Prince; Msgr Frantz Colimon, bishop of Port-de-Paix, who is currently on a pastoral mission; and Msgr Guire Poulard, bishop of Jacmel

Les Cayes Priests Support Exiled Father Poirier

FL1208170388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The fraternity of priests from the South has also sent a note expressing their solidarity with the faithful of Grand Goave parish and with the Viatorian Fathers. They also protest the forcible expulsion of Father Poirier from Haiti.

[Les Cayes correspondent Dominique Dede] [Passage omitted] After all the efforts and all the sacrifices [words indistinct] the Haitian people, the popular masses, our peasants who have been left helpless, without a leader, without creole pigs, and without any support to face the greased pole that the big landowners, the section chiefs, the military, the macoutes, and a bunch of other exploiters are forcing them to climb, and after the river of the blood of schoolchildren, workers, minor street vendors, and unemployed people that flowed so there could be a 7 February 1986, many people had hoped the shameful 30-year Duvalier regime of desolation that left its mark on the face of Haiti was finally going to change. This calls to mind the statement we are all familiar with: Things must change ["fok sa chanje," the statment made by the pope during his visit to Haiti].

Unfortunately, 2 and ½ years after Duvalier and his acolytes left the country, it is as if they were still here in flesh and blood. After us, comes us. There is no difference. The people used to be trampled upon, lied to, mistreated, and murdered—as happened in (Casales). Now those who replaced the people who did this are trampling upon the people, lying to them, mistreating them, and murdering them—as happened in Jean-Rabel and (Danty).

They used to shut down schools and seminaries and shoot at presbyteries, churches, and temples. Now, they are still taking revenge on baccalaureate exam candidates and tolerating toxic waste in the noses of the people of Gonaives, who played such a great role in February 1986. They are machinegunning churches and presbyteries, burning down marketplaces and public buildings, shooting people down in the streets, and putting people into prison without trial. What was done under Duvalier that our current leaders are not doing? We thought there would finally be an end to persecution in Haiti, but beginning with Nicolas Estiverne, through Bernard Sansaricq and (Reynold Metayer), and all the way to Daniel Narcisse, exiling individuals has been resumed with a vengeance.

The note continues: The sly observers following the game were certain that there absolutely had to be a pawn they had to move.

Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier enjoyed throwing priests out of the country. It looks as if this was the only exercise their students had not yet imitated. Now, they must be happy to note that they have learned all the lessons the masters taught them. The deportation of Father Poirier was the only chapter they were having trouble with. We were very shocked to see the way the champion of democracy booted out Father Poirier, just because he did not agree with the game of pretending to be nice people the country's leaders are hoping God will not put an end to.

We were very shocked to see how the ambition for power is leading the military government to continue piling injuries upon all the other injuries you already know about, and how, when it is not the government itself that does it, it turns this over to the macoutes, unleashing them to do whatever they please. The macoutes are now in all important government positions. They hold all the important Army jobs. All the development advisers of small-scale projects are macoutes.

But, even though shocked through and through, we are still hopeful and we agree 100 percent with the position taken on 7 August by our colleagues, the priests from Jeremie, and the position being taken by Frala [Fraternity of Committed Laymen] in Port-au-Prince, by the civilian society group, and all sorts of other groups and associations to support Father Poirier and the Haitian people. We are willing to support all key stands imbued with courage and love for the Haitian people that the bishops and the conference of clergymen may take after this act. We salute the people of Grand Goave, who have not bowed down before the heavy-caliber weapons that they know can be used against them, and who have taken up Father Poirier's cause as their own. We hope the petition they have begun circulating will be signed by all patriotic Haitians who are crazy about their country and who would not like us to fall under another even more ferocious dictatorship.

This was a press release sent to us by the fraternity of priests from the diocese of Les Cayes, stating their position following the deportation of Grand Goave parish priest Father Rene Poirier.

Bazin Elaborates on Call for National Dialogue

FL1208215588 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Report on interview with Marc Bazin, head of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, by Nancy Rock; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH, recently launched an appeal for dialogue on a national scale. This appeal caused a big stir in Haitian political circles. Today, in an interview with Nancy Rock, Marc Bazin explains himself further.

[Rock] Less than 2 weeks after the controversy that followed ' . Marc Bazin's 28 July call for dialogue over Tele-Haiti, the MIDH president expresses his opinion on certain points. Mr Bazin explains, first of all, why he chose to appeal to the nation by himself:

[Bazin] "Well, I was speaking as president of the MIDH. Within the CED [Committee for Democratic Accord], it is practically an accepted rule from the start. We have never renounced forever the right to express our personal opinions just because we belong to a group such as the CED. The option each of us has to speak for himself or for his party is an option that has been acknowledged, and which we have been using for some 8 months."

[Rock] Mr Bazin answers the question: Do you think there is a real possibility of open dialogue with the current government after the events of the past 2 years?

[Bazin] "I know two things. I know that the formula of a dialogue has never been tried. Thus, we will have to see what it can produce. I know a second thing, which is as serious as the first: that there is no alternative to dialogue. I (?ask) all those around me; I challenge people. I hear people saying: Yes, but we cannot have trust. We are uneasy. First of all, did he say it, or didn't he? Shouldn't he be the one to begin? And so forth. I hear many, many objections. Some stem from emotion, others from mood or vanity, and so forth. But no one has ever said to me: 'In place of dialogue, we have something else, and that something else is X.'"

[Rock] Regarding General Namphy's remark, and I quote, everyone can get on the train, but under the conductor's conditions, unquote, the MIDH leader says:

[Bazin] "Indeed, like yourself, I too was struck by this sentence, which was uttered 3 days before the Les Cayes speech. I imagine, my interpretation of the meaning of the statement, is that there are probably several currents among the people surrounding the government. There is

probably a hard line, which feels that dialogue serves no purpose and that talking with the democrats must be avoided at all costs. That is because in the final analysis, it is the most convenient position for all those who are opposed to change—the idea that, if there is no dialogue, we keep everything. After all, that is the customary game, and no sharing is required.

"Thus, going by the chronological sequence and even by appearances, it seems to me that the Les Cayes speech is the most recent and is the one I should stick to. Besides, it is a written speech, and not an improvisation given in the heat of a tour that greatly resembles tours for the purpose of winning people over.

"So actually, Nancy, it really matters little whether Gen Namphy's speech explicitly says there should be a dialogue, the way I think—the way his statements lead me to believe. I think that this business of a dialogue is a necessity, independently of the government or anything else, because given the situation the country is in, it is obvious that things are blocked."

KID Affiliate Comments on Arrested Youths

FL1208172388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Three of the five young people arrested by the military in Grand Goave yesterday morning have been released; the other two are still in prison. Konbit Comme Il Faut, affiliated to the KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity], two of whose members were among the five young people arrested, held a news conference this morning at KID headquarters. [passage omitted]

Konbit Comme Il Faut asks that the other two young people be quickly released, and he says that if this is not done, it might take a stand together with all the people's organizations that want to fight the wave of terror which they say is engulfing Grand Goave.

The group also discussed the case of Father Poirier, which it says is the result of maneuvers by the reactionary sector to crush and dismantle all struggles being waged by popular organizations in the Grand Goave area. That is why they had begun taking many initiatives aimed at forcing the government to authorize Father Poirier, who was spreading light in the area, to return to Haiti.

[Begin speaker recording] [Passage omitted] We began taking these initiatives the day after Father Rene was arrested. Father Rene was arrested on 4 August. We managed to avoid a clash despite the fact that the macoute Army had established a climate of fear and terror down there, despite the fact that after they arrested Father Rene they occupied the streets militarily in Grand Goave and surrounded the headquarters of Comme Il Faut, a democratic organization working in the area. But the people of Grand Goave did not let this terror paralyze them. They mobilized the very next day, the Saturday after the arrest, to show the Army their reaction to what had been done. [passage omitted]

The climate of repression and terror prevailing in Grand Goave today is precisely a result of the fact that we decided to mobilize in order to respond to their act. [end recording]

According to Konbit Comme Il Faut, these acts of terror and intimidation being committed against them did not just begin with this incident. They have been much threatened for a long time. In July 1987, for example, they were dealt a few blows after being labeled communists. On another occasion, a demonstration they were organizing was broken up with picks, sticks, and many other weapons. [passage omitted]

In particular, says Konbit Comme Il Faut, parents of young people are still being heavily pressured. However, the organization says that instead of demobilizing them, this is pushing them more firmly into the struggle they are waging for the complete liberation of Haiti.

Unitarian Bloc on Situation, Priest's Expulsion

FL1308103288 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Stirring in connection with the expulsion of Father Rene Poirier, the BIP, Patriotic Unitarian Bloc, has called for national unity. [passage omitted]

BIP, concerned with safeguarding the acquisitions of 7 February 1986, condemns such acts and shares the pain of the population of Grand Goave and that of the parents of the young people illegally arrested in Grand Goave, Les Cayes, and Gros Morne. The BIP is concerned for the national interest, and deplores the fact that such gratuitous acts can only contribute to making the civilian population oppose the Armed Forces.

BIP understands those who say that although the government speaks of democracy, it actually chooses to install a military dictatorship in Haiti; with the recent incidents, the government is trying to destroy the foundations of any possibility of a national dialogue. BIP asks: Is this indeed the military government's objective? The group answers: BIP still refuses to believe this. The Haitian people expect the country's leaders to behave thoughtfully, openly, and calmly, considering the serious problems in connection with the upcoming beginning of the school year and the students who refused to take the baccalaureate exam, the toxic waste in Gonaives, the ravages caused by AIDS as a result of our inadequate sanitary structures, the chronic unemployment, the high cost of living, the absence of the creole pigs demanded by the peasants, and the uneasiness of civil servants and employees in general about receiving a guaranteed salary because of economic and political instability.

Solutions to problems like these these cannot be put off, says the BIP. Therefore, a solution to these problems can be found only within the framework of a great national consensus and not through vague incantations that contain no concrete proposals. Nor can these problems be resolved through little maneuvers in the anterooms of power.

The BIP's statement concludes: It is from this perspective that we invite the government to free the young people unjustly jailed as soon as possible, to negotiate the return of Father Poirier with the Episcopal Conference, and to lift the measures obstructing freedom of association in the provinces.

[Signed] Serges Gilles and Dejean Belizaire, for the BIP Secretariat [passage omitted]

Former PDCH Officer Heads New Political Party

FL1308164988 Port-au-Prince Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] A new political party was formed this week in Port-au-Prince. The main objective of the PUND, Party of National Unity for Development [Parti de l'Unite Nationale pour le Developement], which is headed by Dr Wisler Pierre-Louis, is to struggle to safeguard the acquisitions of 7 February 1986, consolidate the democratic foundations for a prosperous and democratic Haiti, and promote economic and social change in accordance with the Haitian people's demands and desires.

The PUND also advocates social justice, participative democracy, and the strictest respect for human rights.

Dr Pierre-Louis is a former member of the high command of the PDCH, Pastor Sylvio Claude's Haitian Christian Democratic Party.

Member Confirms Dissolution of Veterans Group

FL1308165788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Excerpts] For some time now, there have been several press releases from the Haitian Veteran Servicemen's Association [AVMH] that left one with the feeling something was going on within the association. [passage omitted]

Two days after this press release was issued, a founding member of the AVMH, Jean Roger, informs us that the AVMH is dissolved, because certain men came and joined the AVMH in order to discredit it. Let's listen to an interview with him. We were not able to find the other men to interview them.

[Begin Roger recording, in progress] ...today that as far as I am concerned, the association is dissolved. We might form it again later but with another objective, because we feel that it did not work toward the objective for which we established it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Costa Rica

Arias on Castro's Contribution to Peace Plan

PA1208212788 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and his retinue returned to San Jose early today. Upon arriving at Juan Santamaria Airport, Arias commented on some of the topics he discussed with Cuban President Fidel Castro during a meeting in Quito.

[Begin Arias recording] Castro and I talked about how he could contribute to the fulfillment of the peace plan. The truth is his contribution will be difficult as long as he continues to be (?morally) involved with guerrillas in Guatemala and El Salvador. Dialogue is presently (?stagnated) in those two countries. [end recording]

Arias Letter to Ortega Urges Reforms, Peace

PA1408141488 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Aug 88 p 2

[Letter sent by President Oscar Arias to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega—dated 9 August]

[Text] Dear Mr President:

On the road toward achieving peace, we have often experienced setbacks and difficult times. Powerful forces are trying to justify violence and war every time diplomatic channels or commitments are not followed or met.

When there is an armed struggle and when thousands are killed on the battlefield, those who promote violence never conclude from those useless killings that war is futile. They do not believe that peace can be achieved through dialogue and negotiation.

It will always be easier to rectify mistakes when the weaknesses are political or when errors are made on the road to peace. We cannot bring the dead back to life, and violence born of hatred takes a long time to heal.

I believe, Mr President, that it would be encouraging if you were to rectify some political decisions your government made following the unfortunate incidents at Nandaime. It is important to reopen the communications media that are closed. It is necessary to release the prisoners and to revoke the sentences imposed upon them as punishment for involvement in those incidents. The peace plan to which we are committed obliges us to restore confidence as soon as possible. Our most sacred commitment is to continue progressing on the path toward democratization.

It is imperative that your government and the Nicaraguan contras resume negotiations to secure a permanent end to military actions in Nicaragua. This could very well be an encouraging example for many Central American and other countries. I offer you our Costa Rican territory for the resumption of such negotiations. I also offer you all the assistance within my means to enable such negotiations to take place.

I understand that you will attend the upcoming inaugural ceremony in Ecuador. I believe it would be a sign of confidence in the future of peace, a noble gesture toward Rodrigo Borja, and would aid in strengthening the Ecuadoran democratic process if you attended the ceremony in Quito after reversing the setbacks incurred as a result of antidemocratic actions, such as penalizing the communications media and depriving men and women of their liberty.

Only if we have the strength to correct our mistakes and the vision to continue on the path outlined in the peace plan can Central Americans prevent the continuance of the armed aggression against our peoples. A Latin American commitment to peace also requires efforts to achieve independence and democracy. We will not be granted another political opportunity to forge history. It is unlikely that there will be a new opportunity for reconciliation to allow today's youth a different future, a new opportunity to put aside their weapons and to work for a better future.

Guatemala

Cerezo Speech on Economic Problems, Measures

PA1308053088 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0303 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Speech by President Vinicio Cerezo; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear friends, Guatemalan people:

Today I have come to continue talking with you about the various economic problems and the measures we are adopting to again stabilize the national economy, as we managed to do in 1986.

After each important measure is adopted to set the nation's economy in order, to revitalize the economy to have more sources of employment, and to enable everyone to use Guatemala's wealth and well-being, we cause some speculative or inflationary problems, because some prices increase. However, through complementary readjustment and social measures the government may adopt, and with the cooperation of the various organized popular sectors or the private sector—with which I am willing to cooperate—we gradually manage to stabilize matters and bring back a situation satisfactory to the Guatemalan people.

When I talked to you last week, we were aware the economic measures the government had to adopt to complete the implemention of the social and economic reorganization program were leading to situations that

were relatively troublesome to all Guatemalans. We have had to make some sacrifices so we, our children, and our grandchildren will be able to live better in the future.

When you start thinking why the government is adopting some measure that other governments have not adopted before—measures that at times impose a degree of economic sacrifice on us, particularly on the middle class—ask yourselves, or clarify or assert the following to yourselves: The previous administrations did not adopt the measures we have adopted and which helped solve the situation. On the contrary, they worsened it.

We are adopting measures that are gradually improving the country's economic situation. We also said that in the face of these measures and these problems, we Guatemalans can adopt two types of attitudes. One is the attitude of taking advantage of problems, of trying to obtain social, political, personal, or economic advantages through speculation. These are the bad Guatemalans, the small groups of people who seek to take advantage of our problems for their own benefit or the benefit of their own sector, or the Guatemalans who, even in good faith, believe they can get advantages for their organization from the problems instead of proposing positive solutions. We can contribute to worsening, rather than improving, things in good faith as well.

However, most Guatemalans hold a positive attitude, which stems from some popular organizations and a substantial part of the private sector that is not speculative but is good and honest. All the people who have called me by phone and through the public programs to make suggestions, to express solidarity, to give us ideas with which we can work, and especially to say they are confident in the government, even though it has adopted difficult measures at this moment—these people believe that because of the government's present attitude and because of our honesty and identification with the objectives of the Guatemalan people, we will forge ahead with our nation.

The government has the second attitude we mentioned, a positive attitude. It is determined to tackle the problems, it is bent on making decisions, and, of course, it is bent on making Guatemala forge ahead by launching a program that will range from setting the house in order to reorganizing the nation until we economically revitalize Guatemala so we may all benefit from the measures adopted by the government. We have asked you for a degree of patience. However, we announced we would be adopting some emergency measures, some immediate measures to help improve the lot of Guatemalans, to increase their purchasing power. We have launched them.

Today, I will comment on some of the measures we have adopted. First, I said we studied the fuel price increases. We said we had to increase them because the fuel price we get on the international market is constantly increasing—2 centavos every day or every week. Because of these prices, we have to pay more dollars for each gallon of fuel. We were already beginning to subsidize some of the fuels, so we had to make some increases. However, we analyzed the effects of some of those increases, which had affected the most people, which could be corrected to stabilize the prices and to improve the situation of some sectors of the population. After analyzing the prices we had established, we realized we could correct them and not hurt the nation economically, not affect the overall economic measures, and not have to increase the fuel prices within 3 months or a very short time because of the pace of the fuel price increases on the international market. We have decided to reduce the price of super and ordinary gasoline and diesel oil. We have decided to reduce the price of these fuels 10 centavos to stabilize the prices that had been affected by them, but especially thinking of the middle and lower classes.

We decided we could improve the situation, for instance, of a middle-class family that has been hurt by the constant rise in the cost of living, the economic measures, and the failure of its income to increase in proportion to the cost of living—a family that has a small car and goes on outings during weekends.

Ten centavos represents a considerable price reduction. The general economic measures will not affect average citizens. In addition, this lets us keep the price of gasoline stable for at least the next 6 months, despite international price fluctuations. We have also lowered the price of regular gasoline because regular gasoline is used by many who have a small truck to transport people and cargo. In this way, we will keep the basic basket price from rising.

Furthermore, we have lowered the price of diesel fuel by 10 centavos, so within the context of the agreement between users, transportation businesses, and the government, transportation fares have to be raised only for those sectors affected by the 2.70 [quetzal to dollar] exchange rate. This also affects spare parts. In this way, we can either keep the prices we agreed upon or lower the transportation fares by 10 centavos. This does not mean we would return to the previous prices. Of course, fares had already been affected by international economic factors, such as higher tire and spare parts prices. Nevertheless, we will maintain the prices we announced earlier. We will try to keep prices at a fair level, regardless of speculative increases. We have already started to resolve these problems.

As a result of our fuels study, we lowered the gasoline and diesel fuel prices by 10 centavos. As for the other fuels, we think it is unwise to lower them because we have to strengthen our economy first. We are still considering other measures to improve family and personal incomes.

We have introduced a bill to establish a new salary policy. This bill, which was presented to the Congress today, will be studied next week. I am asking the deputies to debate this bill quickly and expeditiously and to try to approve it on the shortest possible notice so we can establish a small and reasonable but significant pay increase in each economic sector. We are not proposing a general pay increase for all workers because this would result in more problems than benefits (?because) of inflation. In addition, some businesses unable to raise their workers' salaries in accordance with the decree would fire workers.

We are proposing a mechanism for salary increases in the form of incentives for workers. The hourly rate would be raised for the worker who produces the most. His employer can apply this principle without causing other problems. We think this plan, which is relatively new and which we talked over informally with people's organizations and the private sector, would be a step in the right direction to improve the situation a little. If the cost of living increases, we must improve the population's income. Yet we have to do it without causing inflation and without troubling small- and medium-scale businessmen who would be forced to cut the number of workers.

On the contrary. We have to improve the situation of those who are already earning some money, but in such a way that this will also help those who are getting nothing and the unemployed. They are now more affected by the high cost of living because they have no income and can barely survive. This salary policy will make it possible to maintain the rate of investment. Those who already have jobs can keep them and receive income. By maintaining the investiment rate and the number of jobs, we will also increase the supply or sources of jobs to give a chance to those who are not currently receiving any income.

So the second measure is to introduce in Congress a bill for a new salary policy that we think will improve the income of private sector workers. We have been discussing a fair job reclassification with the public sector. We will gradually improve this sector's salary base on a short-term basis.

In addition, we have made plans to improve the basic basket. In this regard, we are concerned about two basic aspects, that is to say, to ensure supply and at a reasonable price. We will ensure supply at reasonable prices by watching overproduction and by guaranteeing certain prices for producers so they can increase production with greater investment. Also, we will create supply centers at reasonable prices. These are known as people's supply centers and farmers fairs. We will expand this to include middle class neighborhoods, those sectors somehow affected by the high cost of living.

We are particularly concerned about vegetables, whose prices have been increased considerably because of our numerous exports to Central America, the United States, and other countries of the world.

We committed ourselves to reviewing some prices, and we have decided to control sugar prices. We decided that the price of sugar will have to stay at 37 centavos because this price will permit maintaining an increase in production, thereby creating sources of employment in the country's interior, especially on farms. In addition it will allow us to reduce somewhat the cost of sugar in the interior of the country and to maintain supplies. One thing we are doing is keeping the price at 37 centavos and making sure that the price does not go up in the country 's interior. We have agreed on this price with producers. We are trying to guarantee supplies throughout the year so that there is no speculation with this product.

Through an agreement we are promoting among producers, retailers, and supply centers, we are going to try to make sure that this price provides revenue stability in the sugar sector. This would permit certain investments to improve social institutions, such as hospitals and other services that we must guarantee to the people.

We are going to keep the price of sugar, which went up to 50 centavos in the country's interior, at 37 centavos.

As a result of a reorganization of the Economy Ministry, we are going to control the price agreed upon for the benefit of the Guatemalan people. The fourth measure we have adopted is to reorganize the cabinet for the sake of long-term economic reactivation, for continuous supplies, and to maintain reasonable prices that should be adequate for the population. To promote this, we are going to transfer some ministers, appoint others, expand the Economy Ministry, and increase the number of inspectors so that price control efforts can be carried out efficiently. We will be announcing the names of the people who will be occupying the various posts, but we can say in advance that the current economy minister will be transferred to economic planning, and the secretary of economic planning will be transferred to Congress to coordinate efforts between Congress and the executive branch, while respecting the autonomy of Congress. In addition to this, the [words indistinct] of the finance vice minister, Oscar Pineda, will be transferred to the Economy Ministry to direct this reorganization and to enhance this attitude of the government to stop the advance of speculation and to control it to a certain degree.

One of the experts we have in the Finance Ministry, Jose Mauricio Rodriguez, who is very well prepared for the task, will form part of the deputy minister's team. The details have been announced by the ministry. The important thing here is to report that we are reorganizing

the Economy Ministry to increase the state's efficiency to contribute—with the private sector and with the people—toward securing supplies and controlling prices at a reasonable level.

In addition to this, we have been able to regulate transport prices as a result of an agreement between the private sector, the users of the service, and the government. We are concerned with transport services in the municipalities around Guatemala City. We are also concerned with acceptable and reasonable prices in the interior of the country.

Of course, we have secured credits and funds for private organizations such as the League for the Defense of Consumers and Cooperatives. We are prepared to give this type of aid to other popular organizations so that there are more supply centers and to expand agricultural fairs, as we have already stated.

In addition to this, we want to contribute to a climate of security and stability. You have noticed in the past few days that there has been a feeling of insecurity. On the one hand, there was violence against Congress, and on the other there have been rumors of a coup d'etat. For this reason, we are creating a Civil Protection System [Sistema de Proteccion Civil—SIPROCI] [words indistinct] but that gives people a sense of stability and security. I also want to ask the Guatemalan people to always trust in reports issued by the government. We will always tell you the truth about what happens. We have asked the media not to publish rumors but to confirm the information it receives. This is directed mainly to achieve the SIPROCI and logistical support for the Guatemalan Army, which consists of rifles and helicopters. [sentence as heard] It is definitely aimed at maintaining a climate of stability and security for the Guatemalan people.

We will comply with measures we promised to adopt so that Guatemalans who want to resolve problems rather than taking advantage of problems can participate in a national dialogue. Guatemalans can also initiate a dialogue that was proposed to the National Reconciliation Commission by a labor organization so that the government, the commission, popular organizations, and responsible private organizations can search for ways for Guatemalans to improve daily and develop the feeling that we all belong to the same nation, Guatemala.

I will be reporting to you on short-term and medium-term measures so that we may all hold talks to move the nation forward. Thank you, dear countrymen.

Government To Make Cabinet Changes 16 Aug

PA1208220188 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The government has said the plans for the Jaguar-2000 project, also known as the Guatemala-2000 project, are factors it has taken into account for a series of cabinet changes to take place on 16 August, especially the transfer of Economy Minister Lizardo Sosa Lopez to secretary of economic planning, a case cited by official spokeswoman Claudia Arenas Bianchi:

[Arenas] "Lizardo Sosa's transfer to economic planning is very important, because it is consistent with the reports we received several months ago about giving continuity to the short-, medium-, and long-term policy programs integrated in the Guatemala-2000 proyect. Lizardo Sosa, from the Economic Planning Secretariat, will be in charge of coordinating work plans for Guatemala-2000."

Other changes taking place on 16 August include transferring current Deputy Finance Minister (Oscar Videla Robles) to the post of economy minister. (Jose Mauricio Widder), current director of the real estate titles registry, will be appointed second deputy finance minister. Current Economic Planning Secretary Hermes Marroquin will occupy his seat at the National Congress. Meanwhile, there were many conjectures concerning who will replace Bank of Guatemala President Jose Miguel Gaitan. It is said former Finance Minister (Jorge Lampo Rodil), who worked for the administrations of Generals Arana Osorio and Lazaro Garcia, could be the next bank president.

On 6 August, Deputy Raul Sandoval Portillo commented on Gaitan's resignation as Bank of Guatemala president:

[Sandoval] "We have reliable information he resigned already, and his replacement is being sought to make the announcement. In the resignations and changes to take place in the Ministries of Economy and Finance and the Bank of Guatemala, the only winner will be the finance minister. [Words indistinct] because it seems people close to him or who can be manipulated by him in those posts. I think the finance minister is making political gains. He has been seeking that for a long time."

Deputy Sandoval Portillo felt the reasons for Gaitan's resignation may be simlar to those of his predecessor, Federico Linares Martinez:

[Sandoval] "I imagine he resigned because he received a direct order through the telephone connection between the Bank of Guatemala and the executive branch. Manipulating the Bank of Guatemala president, which is very important post, will never work. Keep in mind the Bank of Guatemala handles all of Guatemala's economic power and foreign currency. The problem at the bank was that its president, who handles the banking system, was manipulated. I think a person who is highy qualified will prefer to resign if one tries to use him as a puppet. He would prefer to resign rather than being bossed by someone who ignores certain aspects of the economy."

Nicaragua

Ortega on U.S. Policy, Elections; Border Force

PA1308234588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1853 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega to Nicaraguan ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry in Managua—live; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...the message as their ambassadors rather than as our ambassadors. That absurd logic is over. You have to be clear in order to defend this country in the countries where you represent Nicaragua. You must ask them: Do you not have laws and a constitutional framework? Every socialist or capitalist state has a constitutional framework, has laws, resorts to repression when the time comes to defend the constitutional framework; however, they have de jure states. The exploiters, the capitalists have de jure states to defend exploitation and capitalism. Socialists have de jure states to defend socialism. They must understand—those who call themselves friends of Nicaragua or those who are enemies of Nicaragua—there is a de jure state in Nicaragua. They must understand there are laws and a constitutional framework that we will make people respect. The freedom of criminals cannot be negotiated.

I am telling you this because there has been pressure exerted following the arrests of the people who attacked police officers in Nandaime, where they injured some policemen. The Costa Rican president has even openly exerted pressure, which is unacceptable for Nicaragua, because we have never asked the Costa Rican president, or any other Latin American president, or the U.S. President, or any European president, or any other president in the world to release a specific individual. All we have asked is that they improve relations with Nicaragua and other countries. We have not pleaded with a particular government when another government decided to close the media. Those countries have their own constitutional frameworks and their own regimes.

We have political and ideological differences. So let us respect each other and have respectful relations, since we have different political-ideological perspectives and since we have a constitutional framework to defend different interests.

The Nicaraguan de jure state should be defended. In any case, what we have to demand of those governments, or of those political leaders, or of those labor organizations—who become very active when they are asking for something or demanding something of Nicaragua—is that they use the same force to demand that the United States halt the aggression against Nicaragua and abide by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling. We must adhere very closely, completely to the international legal system. This ICJ ruling is very powerful because, as we all know very well, the ICJ has been used by the United States as a tool. It has been deemed good when utilized by the United States and bad when utilized by Nicaragua.

Independent of whatever attitude the United States assumes, however, the truth is that we are duty bound to demand that those who are calling for or demanding that we adopt internal measures, which is called interventionism, what we have to tell them is that they must demand that the United States stop the aggression against Nicaragua. If we have internal tension here, if we have problems like the ones that have arisen here, it is because of the U.S. policy of terrorism against Nicaragua, because of the illegal policy the United States has been pursuing against Nicaragua, because, in the first place, they are not abiding by the ICJ ruling.

This is insofar as our domestic affairs, our internal politics are concerned; however, this is connected to external matters, because they are constantly assailing us.

Nicaraguan ambassadors have to be Nicaragua's ambassadors and not the ambassadors of the government or of the local political forces of the country that begins pressuring Nicaragua. Ambassadors have to wage a political battle to defend Nicaragua's interests so that, instead of pressuring Nicaragua, those people will pressure the United States. It takes a lot for a government to dare mention the name of the United States when attempts are made to denounce it for violating the international legal system. Yet those people refer to Nicaragua in a most nonchalant and unconcerned manner.

When one looks at the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, there is no doubt that after the crisis experienced by the exit of the Contadora and Support Groups' peacekeeping efforts in the Central American region—a departure fundamentally provoked by the attitude that was assumed by the Salvadoran and Honduran Governments—we witnessed Latin American countries assuming a belligerent attitude on behalf of the peacekeeping role here in Central America. Economic topics of interest to the region were broached, such as the problems of foreign debt and trade that were discussed by the Group of Eight, demonstrating clear differences between Latin American and Caribbean interests and the interests of the United States.

It could be said that in Ecuador, on the occasion of the inauguration of President Rodrigo Borja, more progress was achieved in the process of strengthening Latin American awareness. This was expressed first of all in a truly pluralistic dialogue between the Latin American countries. This dialogue has ceased to exclude anyone. It is truly a historic fact that Cuba was present in Quito at the inauguration of President Borja. That country was subjected to an isolation in Latin America, an isolation that was promoted by the United States. That isolation is gradually being broken.

Nicaragua was also present at a time when confrontations between the imperialist policy and Nicaragua are the order of the day. This is an example of how the action of the Latin American countries and the strength generated by the rank-and-file movements across our continent have succeeded in shaping more vanguardist, more decisive, more belligerent, and more conciliatory attitudes in Latin America.

We cannot say that all Latin American governments act in the same manner. There are governments with firmer, more belligerent, more courageous positions. There are governments with vacillating positions. There are governments who yield easily to the pressure of Yankee blackmail. There are governments that when pressured by the Yankee government have become estranged from Nicaragua. There are governments that when pressured by the Yankee government easily express their concern about the Nicaraguan Government, but they never dare to clearly manifest their concern or their condemnation of the U.S. attitude against the Nicaraguan Government.

We are in the midst of a Latin American process and all these governments have common interests, especially in regard to the economic situation. All the Latin American governments, even the ones that procrastinate the most, realize that if the economic problems are not resolved, bourgeoisie democratic openings will be to no avail, because the economic crisis and the world crisis will worsen and this will bring rebellions and revolutions. They, of course, want neither rebellions nor revolutions.

So it is urgent and necessary for these countries to work for a new international economic order simply for the sake of the very survival of the bourgeoisie democratic regime, of capitalism, in Latin America and the Caribbean. Otherwise, the future looks bleak for that system.

This situation facilitates Latin American agreements. This situation results in increasing respect for political and ideological pluralism. This event in Quito was an example of what I just mentioned. For the first time, rulers of various political and ideological persuasions have met in a Latin American capital.

We are breaking the isolation promoted by imperialism. We are strengthening Latin American awareness. All this is taking place within the framework provided by more or less active governments. All the governments are convinced that it is necessary to work in a united fashion.

The Yankee government is concerned about all these Latin American activities. The Yankee government cannot see with good eyes the presence of Cuba and Nicaragua in Ecuador. It cannot see with good eyes the existence of the Group of Eight. It cannot like the Esquipulas agreement signed by the Central American presidents. It cannot like the Sapoa agreement signed by the Nicaraguans and the contras—the Nicaraguan Government and the contras. The Yankee government cannot see with good eyes how a small country like Nicaragua has been able to resist the aggression that they have been carrying out for more than 7 years.

They cannot see how another small country, Panama, can resist the interventionist policy the Yankee government has tried to implement in that country to overthrow its government. There the Yankee government has encountered the resistance of the Panamanian people and the Panama Defense Forces.

The illegal and terrorist policies of the U.S. Government have failed. The Yankee government, which—finally—has been skillful, mature, and rational enough to discuss matters of general importance with the Soviet Union in response to continuous and active initiatives from the Soviet Union, has not been rational enough to handle regional problems.

The Yankee government will be ending its term in January—Reagan will be leaving in January—leaving behind all the regional conflicts. Because of the way in which he handled his policies, he will leave behind regional conflicts, regional conflicts in America and in the Middle East. We also cannot see how the situation in South Africa can be resolved, even though there is hope the situation in Namibia may be resolved. Regional conflicts remain, especially those here in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Bush said last Friday in a speech in Texas that he defends the Monroe Doctrine and is against international organizations. I am trying to recall the topic—on election perspectives in the United States. Bush said it all in his speech against Dukakis. He said that Dukakis wanted to hand over regional problems to the United Nations, when this is something the United States had to deal with. He said that Dukakis wanted to end the Monroe Doctrine, which is still in effect for U.S. interests.

This is the basic concept that makes the United States maintain a hard-line policy, a policy of disrespect for international law, an interventionist policy, mostly against Latin American and Caribbean countries, followed by other Third World countries in other areas. Of course, first of all there is Latin America and the Caribbean, because we are here sharing the continent with the United States. Latin Americans are subjected to the dictates of U.S. foreign policy. This is the bottom line in Latin America.

Bush's proposal is clear. Bush's proposal is the same as Reagan's. Dukakis' proposal at least sounds different. If Dukakis does become the U.S. president, and if he has the power and ability to implement the policies he announced during the Democratic convention, this would establish very important bases of a U.S. Government with a new, constructive, open, and clear position toward Latin America—a convergent Latin America.

These convergent Latin American countries could start a dialogue with the United States that would lead to a new type of relationship between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean.

This is the outlook if Dukakis takes power and if he is capable of putting his policies into effect. Is it possible? Could it be possible? We cannot begin to speculate. All we can do is listen to what he said in his Democratic convention speech, taking into account that U.S. policies waver, they vary—their policies are very unstable.

It is said that the struggle will be very difficult. One cannot imagine that Dukakis will win easily in the elections, regardless of the margin he has over Bush at this moment. Bush's contentions about Dukakis' lack of foreign policy experience carry weight and may lead Dukakis to assume a more right-wing position to neutralize Bush's criticism. This is where all those demagogic elements enter the picture. The speeches dealing with U.S. policy play with demagoguery; that is a reality. They play with demagoguery. They play with symbols, such as communism, which is a symbolic word that can provoke changes.

Regardless of the results of the upcoming U.S. elections, we are obliged to continue working for this goal that we have clearly established for ourselves and that has to do with defending our revolution. In order to defend our revolution, we must continue fighting the imperialist policies. We must continue defeating the U.S. policy. That continues to be our goal. We propose a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Thus far the United States does not present any kind of change regarding the Central American situation. The fact the U.S. Congress approved approximately $60 million in funds, excluding the funds approved in the U.S. Senate—the proposal by the Democrats, probably—shows the U.S. lack of respect for international law. It shows the U.S. lack of respect for agreements reached by governments. The Central American presidents signed an agreement whereby we called on the governments outside the region not to finance rebel or insurgent groups; however, the Yankee Congress calmly voted and approved in the Senate financing to obtain more weapons for the counterrevolutionaries. This not only shows a lack of respect for the ICJ, but it shows a lack of respect for the Central American presidents' agreement signed on 7 August of last year, as well as for the Sapoa agreements.

[Words indistinct] unless we witness a change in U.S. policy, we are obliged to continue to unmask that policy and to fight that policy, calling on all the political forces of the Latin American governments to come out against that policy. The pressure must not be against Nicaragua; the pressure must be against the United States. The question is not: What will Nicaragua do now? What step will Nicaragua take now? The question has to be: Will the United States respect the court ruling? It continues to show disrespect for the court ruling.

The question that was asked in Quito dealt with security measures. We have already reached the limit of our possibilities. There are no more possibilities on the part of the Nicaraguan Government. The possibilities have been exhausted.

What we are doing is inviting the contras to comply with the Sapoa agreement and to meet in Managua from 26 to 29 August. If they do not like Managua—they are saying they are held prisoner in Managua—then the only other place where the meeting could take place is Washington, because it is in Washington where the terrorist policy is developed, where the Yankee Congress approved a policy against Nicaragua [words indistinct] to work for peace in Nicaragua. They are the most responsible party. The contras are only a tool of the Yankee government. We know that the Yankee government [words indistinct] and strengthen their positions. It is Bermudez, a guardsman, who is now controlling the contras, and he is a tool of the Yankee government.

We are asking the Yankee government to show respect for the ICJ ruling, for the agreement signed by the Central American presidents in Esquipulas, and the agreement signed in Sapoa by the Nicaraguan Government and the contras. If the Yankee government were to comply with this, the conditions for peace would immediately exist. Immediately! The political and economic tension would begin to disappear.

Our work must be directed toward that goal and to creating awareness. We must not feel guilty about what we do for the defense of the revolution. Sometimes we feel that we are committing a crime or sinning because we adopt measures to defend the revolution, and we forget that some of the measures we adopt here are because of the aggression that Nicaragua is enduring.

We must firmly defend the measures we have adopted in our country, and we must tell those governments or political leaders or congressmen who continuously ask Nicaragua to take steps, to create conditions, and to violate its own laws that we are not asking them to break their own laws. When have we demanded the release of a prisoner in a European country? When have we protested if they happen to close a radio station or because a political leader has been murdered? When have we gone to a European or Latin American country to protest human rights violations there? We do not meddle in domestic affairs. Domestic problems must be resolved by the people of each country.

We can no longer accept meddling and interventionist attitudes against the Nicaraguan constitutional framework and our laws by governments and political leaders acting on U.S. Government pressure. We have to tell them that if they want to do something for peace in Central America, then they must engage in a brave and active policy and urge the United States to respect the ICJ ruling.

They avoid doing this with a play on words. They always say: We have already asked the big powers not to meddle. But is there an ICJ ruling saying that the Soviet Union is promoting war in Central America? Why should we get the Soviet Union involved in this when the problem here is between the United States and Nicaragua, between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean? This is not a problem between East and West. This is not a problem between the Soviet Union and the United States where the Central American region serves only as the site of the conflict. It is clear that the problem here is the United States against Nicaragua.

Therefore, we have to show these governments, these people, who protest over measures we adopt internally, a list of the measures they adopt in their own countries. We can answer in kind. I am sure that when these governments come to you with these kinds of demands that you can tell them: But you have done this and that, and you have jailed people, and you have killed people, and you have been repressive to defend your constitutional framework. Why are you meddling and discussing this matter? If you want to talk because you are concerned about peace, then you should address your complaints to the United States. If you want peace for Central America and Nicaragua, then urge the United States to stop waging war on Nicaragua, and you will see that peace will come automatically to the Central American region.

We will continue to suspend offensive operations, or the truce, as this is usually called, until the end of the month of August. We reiterate our demand that the contras meet with us in Managua at the end of the month. They said yesterday that they would not come to Managua. If they do not want to come to Managua, then there is Washington. That is the alternative. Regarding the truce, the contras continue provoking us by attacking civilian objectives. They want us to say the cease-fire, the truce, is over and let us take the military path.

The Honduran Government, which has a very clear problem, has talked about the possibility of establishing an international force on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border area to provide security. We [words indistinct] agreed to that proposal. We had the initiative to establish that force some years ago. We proposed establishing that kind of force on our border with Costa Rica [words indistinct] and then we proposed the same thing to Honduras.

At the OAS meeting in Washington on 11 Novemenber 1987, the Honduran foreign minister made a proposal in that regard. [Name indistinct] told him we agreed and that we were willing to work on that proposal. Honduras never responded.

This year Honduras has been making the same proposal for propaganda purposes. We see that Honduras is making this proposal only to gain publicity, because in practice it has not made any steps toward that [words indistinct].

During my visit to Ecuador, I met with other Latin American presidents and European political leaders, and we discussed this topic. We suggested that countries like Spain, Canada, the FRG, and a representative of the Group of the Eight—so that Latin America is also part of the group—organize the [international] force. We are willing to agree to that. It is up to Honduras to prove it is willing to fulfill what it has been officially proposing at various international meetings, including the OAS meeting last year and at other meetings.

We publicly say today that we are willing to have Spain, Canada, the FRG, and a country representing the Group of Eight form a mobile force of civilian observers to establish a [words indistinct] at the border with Honduras to guarantee that Honduran territory is not used to attack Nicaragua. And because Honduras says we are a threat to them and that we continue attacking Honduran territory, then that force will guarantee Honduras that Nicaragua will not attack it.

We would thereby have a security zone there that would reduce tensions, because as long as the contras continue to carry out their actions and as long as they gather in Honduran territory, the danger of a conflict at the border will always be present. It is like a powder keg where any small spark, any provocation from the United States, could lead to a situation in which they would accuse us of invading Honduras. The U.S. troops would then arrive and an invasion against Nicaragua could take place. We do not rule out an invasion against Nicaragua. We cannot rule it out. That is an instrument the Yankees have. Yesterday they completed another round of military maneuvers in Honduras with over 1,000 U.S. troops participating. They have not ruled out the possibility of intervening with their troops. We would be naive to think that they have ruled out an invasion. We cannot rule out that possibility.

With these factors in mind, we can continue to develop our foreign and domestic policies. In our efforts to unmask the U.S. policies, to neutralize the U.S. policies, and to force the U.S. Administration—because we must force it—to respect international law, to respect the ruling of The International Court of Justice at The Hague, we have to keep up the pressure. They want to disregard the Esquipulas and Sapoa agreements. They must accept the renewal of the negotiations in Managua or Washington. The Hondurans must agree to the establishment of a multinational force. They must agree to what they themselves have been proposing.

Nicaragua must be respected, and it should be understood once and for all that the Nicaraguan Government is a constitutional government, legitimately formed, and that just as all the other governments, the Nicaraguan Government has its own laws. Just as other governments demand adherence to their laws, the Nicaraguan Government also demands that its laws be respected.

With this in mind, we end this meeting. [applause]

Panama

Noriega, Solis Address 'Resistance' Ceremony

Noriega Speech

PA1208200088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1648 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], at the "For Resistance and For the Sovereignty and Dignity of Panama" ceremony at the reverted section of Albrook Air Force Station in Panama City—live]

[Text] Distinguished residents of the Panamanian territory of the Canal Zone: Welcome to this parade. We tell those who are watching us that these are peaceful people but they have enough hormones to withstand aggression. Welcome Mr President of the Republic; brother visitors of the Amphictyonic Congress; Messrs ministers, legislators, representatives of the people's power, representatives of PALA [Labor Party], the Republican Party, the Liberal Party, and the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]; all Panamanians; Authentic Panamanists; Revolutionary Panamenists: Welcome.

Today we are meeting here in the heart of the isthmus to watch and to participate in the resistance parade for national sovereignty and dignity. For the first time in the Republic's history, representative units of our Armed Forces will march together with the dignity battalions, which are the people armed for survival. [applause, slogans] We have armed these people, and those weapons will not be taken back because they belong to the people. These are the people armed for survival and against aggression.

This old military airport, which for 75 years was the symbol of colonial occupation, is the best place to address such an honorable audience.

This event coincides with the anniversary of Battalion 2000 and the evaluation of the 5-year plan of the development of the [Defense] Forces. On the list of professional achievements, the deputy chief of staff of ground forces includes the conversion of the former National Guard into the new Defense Forces, designed for development in that original Panamanian, very Panamanian, alliance of people and Defense Forces through the coordinating instrument of civic action. On our list we also have the creation of Battalion 2000, the Peace Battalion, the Cemaco Battalion, the Pedro Prestan Battalion, the Military Health Battalion, the Transport Battalion, the Military Police Battalion, the Military Engineers Battalion, the Dignity Battalion, and the Bolivar Battalion and the Isthmian Battalion, which are being formed and which will represent the ancestral Panamanian presence in Pichincha, Junin, and Ayacucho.

According to the G-3 computer, other units were created, such as the Operations Center, the Information Center, the women's force, the 12th San Blas Zone, commando units, the Jose Domingo Espinar Training Center, the Military Zones Inspector's Office, the Department of Military History, Economic Services, the Patria Bank, the military chapels and the San Jorge Church, the Military Recreational Center, CEREMI, the Office of Military Liaison and Ceremonies, the Center of Higher Military Studies, the Acuario Publishing Office, the Strategic Military Council, the Infantry Marines, the Military Agricultural Fair, the Logistics Battalion, and the War Materiel Services.

In addition, we restructured the UESAT [Special Anti-terror Service Unit] as an elite unit and reinforced it with amphibious units; the Panajungla School, which is now in a real jungle; the National Department of Investigation's antidrug brigade; the Traffic Department; and the Air Force Reconnaissance Squads. [We created] the Commando School, the Benjamin Ruiz Officers' School, dignity battalions in each province, the Leaders' School, and the Association of Wives of FDP members, to whom I express my respects today.

Professionally, we have advanced. Far behind us are the whistle and club police! Far behind us is the inspector appointed by the governor of the Canal Zone until 1927! We are far from the days when a U.S. military mission was adjacent to the commander's office and had the right to inventory our military equipment. That is why they do not like Noriega! Because a Panamanian commander has a Panamanian office! How far we are from the intelligence services that included offices that had classified files of revolutionary students like [Mario] Panther, Romulo [Escobar Bethancourt] and Romulito, [Ramiro] Vasquez Chambonett, and men of the Tendencia [left-wing faction of the Democratic Revolutionary Party]; of patriotic intellectuals such as Rogelio Sinan and others, many others, who were labeled anarchists, leftists, and communists. How far from that have we gone!

Our plans and vision compel us to redouble our efforts so lack of professionalism or institutional ability cannnot be used as excuses to invalidate our ability to defend the canal.

We insist: Not even the largest army in the world can defend the canal, as General Nutting once said, General Gorman repeated, and General Galvin admitted. The canal cannot be defended, not even if U.S. soldiers are posted inch by inch along the canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific! The canal can only be defended by those who live along its banks, by its owners, by those who gave it birth, by the Panamanian people! [applause, slogans]

Just as U.S. law permits certain security issues to be reported after 10 years, we too want to report the truth after 10 years. We want to say here today that Torrijos ordered us to blow up the canal if the United States failed to approve the Torrijos-Carter treaties. These men here were going to blow up the canal. Torrijos told them: I want to tell people I know are listening to me now that I have never found better men for a mission than them.

These men were already in the heart of the canal. These men were moved to tears when they were told that the canal was now Panamanian and that it did not have to be blown up.

Panama is a nation that has its roots in Tomas Herrera, in Jose Domingo Espinar, in Justo Arosemena, in Felipillo and Bayano, in Urraca, Victoriano Lorenzo, and Prestan, in those who fought the Filos-Hines Agreement, in the 9 January 1964 martyrs, in the flag wielded by Omar Torrijos, in the men who spilled their blood—as Orellana, a Bolivarian and Ecuadoran leader used to say—in Pichincha, Jurin, and Ayacucho. We have an identity and a history. We were not born when the canal was built. We were born before.

This is why we said yesterday: Show respect for Panama by taking your hands out of Panama. We are saying it again today, but this time before talented Bolivarian people who are accompanying us for the convocation of a Second Amphictyonic Congress. We repeat: Take your hands out of Panama. I do not want to say this using the words that former President Jimmy Lakas, who is with us today, would use.

This territory is the burning cord of Latin America, and here the hands of imperialism and neocolonialism will catch fire, because this is the peoples' moment. They have tried to impose on us a made-in-USA democracy. What right do they have to demand a democracy here when at the same time they want to deny us the right to have an independent, free, and sovereign nation—without which democracy is not possible because without a fatherland, no political system is viable? The fatherland comes first; the territory, the flag, and sovereignty come first because this is what permits the building of a democracy designed by the people.

We are going to state a fact: A democracy cannot exist here without the participation of the dignity battalions, of the popular sectors, of Balbina de Perinan, of San Miguelito, of the shirtless people from our poor neighborhoods. There can be no democracy if they are not included, and there will be no democracy if they are not included.

(?Cindy Andam), a distinguished guest of mine who is a journalist and is on the speakers' platform, has wondered: How are Noriega and the United States going to resolve the problem? No! Noriega is not the problem. Noriega did not exist in 1968 or 1970 when Torrijos faced the empire. Torrijos did not exist in 1952 and in 1955 when General Remon Cantera faced the empire. This is not a problem of names. This is not a problem of men. This is the people's problem, and the name of those people is Panama.

I was moved and surprised by what Lieutenant Colonel Moises Correa said. I know Correa because we were in the same paratroopers school, a hidden school in Tocumen that Torrijos used to call the secret paratroopers school.

We used to jump together, and we are brothers of the silk. I was moved when that usually quiet soldier talked to you about military history, about Bolivar. He talked to you of the manifest destiny of the relay of power from one generation to another, a generation in which Noriega will no longer exist. But others will exist. There will be the Correas, the Cortizos, the Gaitans, the Del Cids, and others [referring to members of the FDP High Command]. So forget about Noriega, even though Noriega may be better than those who are to come. If not, ask [Major Jose Hilario] Trujillo and [Major Luis A.] Cordoba. It is advisable, therefore, that you put up with Noriega.

There cannot be democracy here without including the peasant who works the land and the worker who works for long hours in the shop or the factory, who have as many rights as those who invest capital or who implement the techniques or the knowledge learned in their professions. This concept of participation helps avoid violence and armed struggles. We have examples of armed struggles very close to us in neighboring brother countries. We of the Defense Forces have guarded the capital of those wealthy Panamanians—those who are abroad, in the custody of others, as well as those who are very close to us, though also in the custody of others. Yes sir, we are guarding their sugar for them [reference to Eric Arturo Delvalle, who owns a sugar mill].

This is the concept of participation that we want for a democracy. The old rules can no longer prevail here. The president, the honorable president of the Republic, who has made no commitments to any economic consortiums, should adopt a methodology in which he is the one who grants contracts, where he is the one who approves loans, where he is the one who truly contributes with his eyes, with his pen, and with his own judgement to avoid being confused by the economic plans of bureaucratic mechanisms that have only helped to put the Panamanian people further in debt.

Mr President, the economic problem solvers demand from us every time we go to San Miguelito or to the poor neighborhoods that we avoid bureaucracy and the meddling of low-level officials. The ministers are not the ones withholding the contracts, demanding bribes, or boycotting the investment plans.

It is necessary that all political parties—PALA, the Liberal Party, the Republican Party, and the PRD—support the president so we can end this laziness and so the president can act quickly on behalf of the people, who are demanding solutions, not speeches.

It is true that we are paying the price for demanding compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties and for not lending ourselves to an invasion against the Nicaraguan people. [We are paying the price] for maintaining a continuous and growing presence in the struggle being waged by Third World countries and in the nonaligned countries organization and for speaking loudly and

clearly at the Contadora and at the Group of Eight. [We are paying the price] because we have implemented new doctrines for social progress and demographic security [seguridad demografica] at the Permanent Commission of the Central American Defense Council, Copecodeca. All that is true.

However, far from going backwards and being afraid of those who attempt to become our masters, we want to maintain our honor among the peoples struggling against underdevelopment and dependency.

When he finished one of his most important books, a great French novelist gave mankind the following advice: Don't spend your life either hating or fearing. How we members of the Defense Forces wish this were the slogan all Panamanians carried in their hearts!

How I love U.S. society, the U.S. community, the U.S. children! Everyday I receive letters like this one from children in the United States, letters like this one from U.S. children that reflect innocence and Christianity. No child makes a mistake. No child makes a mistake. [repeats himself] They condemn and lament the aggression against our people. They open up their piggy banks and send one dollar or five dollars a month as a contribution to overcome the Panamanian people's hunger. How I love these children who do not know me but who write me with their hearts and who send me money from their piggy banks for the Panamanian people.

After the enormous struggle of the Panamanian people for more than 70 years to eliminate the 1903 treaty and the foreign military presence on our soil and to improve the nation's independence and sovereignty, the Torrijos-Carter canal treaties were signed in 1977. They contain the legal and moral commitment to fulfill most of the Panamanian demands. We must acknowledge that the Torrijos-Carter treaties were achieved not only thanks to the honorable and firm position of the Panamanian people, General Torrijos, and the National Guard, but also to the personal understanding and humanitarian attitude of former President Jimmy Carter and a few U.S. congressmen.

This is the precise moment to express a retrospective self-criticism about the fact that after the treaties went into effect, Panama completely lowered its guard in regard to the national, independent, nonaligned, firm, and resolute policy it had built as armor to support the Panamanian negotiations. Many Panamanians naively thought that with the new 1977 treaties, Panama and the United States were going to begin a permanent honeymoon. They forgot that, as Torrijos said, for the United States, a treaty is a useful but ephemeral act, that the best of treaties can only be judged at the time they are signed, and that the United States signs treaties knowing well that it is going to violate them blatantly.

With this in mind, we must also believe that the international community was deceived by a demagogic spectacle. Today, it wants to abrogate the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The world should be concerned about the validity... [changes thought] Listen to this; the world should hear this: The world must be concerned if the Torrijos-Carter treaties are abrogated. I repeat: The world must be concerned about the fulfillment of the treaties recently signed in the summit by Gorbachev and Reagan. World peace continues to be threatened because at a specific moment, the United States will not recognize Reagan's signature. Conclusions: From the beginning of the Republic, the United States has intervened directly and indirectly in Panama with the objective of achieving the establishment of a government that would be docile to the interests of that power. Today this is directed at modifying the Torrijos-Carter treaties and at perpetuating the presence of military bases and forces after the year 2000.

A Chilean journalist asked me yesterday: What is the problem between Panama and the North Americans? Our problem with the North Americans is not the same problem that Paraguay, Peru, or Chile has with them. Why? Because Paraguay, Peru, and Chile do not have a canal. If we did not have a canal, there would be no problem. It is a shame that the French did not build the canal.

Several strategies were used for this, such as urban insurrection. Through deception, they tried to move the people against the revolutionary process and its nationalist government, ignoring the truth that these people were not the owners of bank deposits and sugar quotas. They did not benefit from tax-free cement purchases and lower supermarket prices. They were not members of exclusive clubs.

Now let us consider the purchase of consciences. They set up a $100-million propaganda fund to purchase souls, men, and stationery; to pay for transportation, payrolls, and radio, press, and television propaganda; and particularly to bribe ideological traitors. The fund was also used to finance armed harassment plans. They hired traitors to try to create division in the Armed Forces. They attempted an entirely fruitless rebellion. It was only necessary to call up the Urraca Company sergeants to crush it easily. This insurrection, which proved completely useless, revealed the empire's penetration and presence, just as the empire's presence was revealed in 1969 when it acted against Torrijos. This time, however, there was more money involved, and those who participated were of lower rank. The G-2 describes this action as the rank-and-file rebellion.

Now there is a new destabilization and asphyxiation strategy. The Panamanian people must be aware of it. Businessmen should cease to be deceived and listen. This new strategy consists of the following:

1. Reshuffling the personnel in charge of canal operations. The Board of Directors' secretary is being given authority. The canal will be remotely controlled from Washington, thus making administrators unnecessary.

2. Holding the latest Board of Directors meeting in Georgia. The idea was to prevent Panama from participating.

3. Lowering the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] budget. This will lower the funds allocated for maintenance and personnel training and will probably result in a reduction in the labor force. A decision has been made to not hold any more Board of Directors' meetings in Panama. The number of working hours will be lowered. The work week will be cut from 5 to 4 days. The canal operations' efficiency will suffer. In addition, $10 million of the PCC budget has been handed over to the U.S. Coast Guard. Income tax and educational fund payments to the [Panamanian] Government, which are normally withheld from employees' paychecks, have been suspended. This has prevented workers from receiving their tax payment certificates [paz y salvo], which they need to travel and to make business transactions. The purpose of this is to make workers turn against the government and to claim that this prevents them from traveling abroad for training.

Canal revenues have been transferred to aid the contras. This is why they have refused to allow the canal books to be examined. This is why they are keeping a former president, who serves as their instrument, captive. I want to tell you that Washington invested more than $100 million in this war. There are no casualties on either side. There are no political prisoners. No properties have been confiscated. The land has not been leveled. The Defense Forces have remained neutral and worthy and refused to stain their hands with blood. The Defense Forces did not try to extract revenge or unleash persecution. Proof of this is that, at present, seditious businessmen still have their own godfathers to obtain their onion, cement, bean, sugar, and flour import quotas.

From here, from this land free of colonialism, I am telling the world that no soldier or dependent of the U.S. Armed Forces, male or female, has been killed, injured, kidnapped, or reported missing. I take this opportunity to tell the world and the military community that the accusations blaming Panamanian citizens and members of the Defense Forces for actions at the fuel storage tanks area are an insult to military intelligence. The principles of war are immutable and based on true facts and evidence, all of which constitute the essential factors of intelligence.

I ask: Where are the empty cartridges? Where are the footprints to prove the intruders' entry and departure? Where are the dead? Where are the wounded? It is news when a dead dog is found in the streets of Panama. How could the largest army in the world stage a 6-hour shootout without leaving traces of combat? This commander must inform the American people that their government is using lies, falsehoods, and politics to keep American youths in the military service, albeit at the risk of a war their government is promoting. The international community must know that throughout this entire crisis the Panama Canal's operation has not been in any way hindered or jeopardized.

You can be sure that the next president of this country will be legitimately elected at the polls and will not be appointed by the Panama Defense Forces, the Union Club neighborhood [exclusive area of Panama City], or by means of some sullied Washington scandal or deal.

In keeping with its history of dignity, Panama will always reject Poindexter's visit and will demand that his country and his elite units—such as the UESAT—and his international voice be silenced. Poindexter attempted to use Panama to spearhead the invasion of Nicaragua, and when a Panamanian lieutenant, a West Point graduate, told Poindexter that he was insulting Panama, Poindexter told him that he was a bad example for the region's other armed forces and governments.

I do not claim to be the most patriotic Panamanian, because each of us carry patriotism in our blood, minds, and hearts. We do not need transfusions, transplants, or pacemakers. However, I do aspire to always be worthy of those who fought for our independence, of the January martyrs, and of the principles and causes advocated by Torrijos, which the people and Armed Forces are carrying out. I hope it will be said that to defend his fatherland, Noriega preferred to stand or die, but never kneel.

The fate of San Miguelito, Curundu, Chorrillo, Pacora, Rio Abajo, Colon, Chiriqui, Darien, Bocas del Toro, Veraguas, Los Santos, Herrera, and San Blas, and that of the bag people, shoe shiners, peddlers, lottery vendors, and market vendors, will be decided by Panama, not by Washington or the U.S. Congress. This depends on you, only on you.

The Panamanian people are aware of a slogan which I was proud to see Costa Rican President Oscar Arias use in a letter to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and which is being used internationally by South American candidates. That slogan is: Not one step backward. I insist that when I said that slogan, it was not intended to be a slogan but an expression that indicated decisiveness. The FDP, the dignity battalions, the children in poor neighborhoods, the dispossesed, and those who do not kneel or tremble have all said: Not one step backward. On behalf of a people who courageously look straight ahead, this Panamanian commander repeats Panama's doctrine, principle, and prayer: Not one step backward!

Solis Speech

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[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, at the "For Resistance and For the Sovereignty and Dignity of Panama" ceremony at the reverted section of Albrook Air Force Station in Panama City—live]

[Text] How sad it is to lose one's sense of history! The enemies of our homeland expected the announcement here today of the emergence of a socialist state; they expected the announcement of Commander Noriega's retirement; they expected to hear so many things they want us to do, because they want to gain power to reap benefits and exploit the Republic. How sad it is not to understand history!

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, and Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega, wife of the commander and president of ASEFUDEP [Association of Wives of Panama Defense Forces Members]; His Excellency Demetrio Lakas, worthy former Panamanian president, and Mrs Fanny de Lakas; Her Excellency Magistrate Marisol Reyes de Vasquez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; gentlemen cabinet ministers and deputy ministers and their wives; comptroller general of the Republic and deputy comptroller general; Colonel Marcos A. Justines, chief of the FDP General Staff, and Mrs Justines; Colonel Alberto Purcell, deputy chief of the Air General Staff, and Mrs Purcell; Colonel Elias Castillo, deputy chief of the Land General Staff, and Mrs Castillo; members of the FDP General Staff and their wives; gentlemen magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice; Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, president of the Electoral Tribunal; Mr Attorney General; Mr Attorney General for the Administration; gentlemen directors and deputy directors, managers and assistant managers of decentralized agencies, and their wives; honorable legislators; Sergeant Moises Pianetta, soldier of our independence; Mr Governor of the Province of Panama; gentlemen members of the National Executive Committee of the member parties of the National Democratic Union, UNADE, and their wives; Panama City Mayor Jilma Noriega de Jurado; Thelma Hassan de Solis; Messrs military attaches, and their wives; messrs FDP Reserves members; soldiers of the dignity battalions; delegates to the preparatory meeting of the Second Amphictyonic Congress; special guests; gentlemen of the national and foreign press; ladies and gentlemen:

The date we are commemorating today is fraught with significance. Its importance is not something isolated; it is not just another step in the life of Panama's military institution. It arose from an array of projections and currents that converge on the living symbol of Battalion 2000's creation.

The profound change taking place within the FDP as a result of the new face and orientation General Omar Torrijos gave it covers not only the military aspect. It lies not only on the strict methods of training and educating officers and soldiers, on the modern equipment they have been supplied with, or on their strictly military abilities. The most important elements in the transformation we have been witnessing are the FDP's conception of the defense of our nationality, their recognition that they have the mission of serving the people's causes, and their decision to join the major national aspiration of building an integral democracy as we fulfill the remaining phases of our liberation.

That change, in fact, is not an isolated phenomenon. It is a process that is beginning to make itself evident in many places. To a greater or lesser degree, the armed forces of the Third World, especially in the small countries with terrible conditions of economic and social backwardness, are beginning to understand their historic role lies in advancing shoulder to shoulder beside the peoples who desire a better future.

They are beginning to feel active identification with the popular aspirations and with that mandate of history that is gradually decreasing the territorial extension and the scope of the dominant influence of the empires.

That is the clear course of the world's political evolution. Irrefutable proof of that truth is the birth of 100 new nations in the last 50 years. There has been active participation everywhere by the armies and their leaders in the withdrawal of colonialism and the forging of nations—two actions that characterize our times.

New structures of cooperation and joint action have been emerging between the civilian and military sectors to accelerate the development of a national and institutional state.

Those who desire a withdrawal and elimination of the FDP's active life are rejecting the progress of history. The FDP, the soldier and the civilian, are part of a nation with the joint responsibility of making it advance, and there is no submission of civilians to military, or of military to civilians, because Panama is one, composed of military and civilians. [applause].

The appearance of Omar Torrijos as a pivotal point in the turnabout of the Panamanian nation has still not been understood by some. The nostalgia of lost privileges and the resentment caused by that loss bewilders their impartial observation and objective analysis. Furthermore, the mental schemes of an outmoded past—schemes that sometimes cloud the view of the future with backward positions—still subsist and prevent a complete understanding of our reality and what this reality demands.

Torrijos understood very well that history had begun to develop against the empires and toward the consolidation of national multitudes and that humanity had begun to become militant against war and for a world of peace. There was a time after his death—a period that was fortunately very short—during which the leadership toward the dawning of the year 2000 appeared to become clouded and the path became vague.

For a time, the old schemes guided the political and social change, and there were evident delays in the institutional structure, to the extent that the meaning of popular power was distorted. The idea that the FDP should be pushed into a corner without ever being able to leave the garrisons began to gain ground. During that time, the enemies of national progress were taking advantage of every way to conquer minds by using the social and political image of what the Armed Forces had begun to eliminate as an outmoded and untenable scheme.

Therefore, when on 12 August 1983 the current command took up the banner of Torrijos and led the FDP toward the preservation of its nationalistic and popular legacy, the last imperial bastions bristled, began to lose their breath, and started to plot.

Nevertheless, the facts have demonstrated that the majority of the people, especially the popular organizations, preferred to ignore or not believe what they saw and perceived in everyday life, that is, the deceitful campaigns organized abroad for local newspapers and radio and television stations.

It is understandable that many of our fellow citizens, including some of our youth, regrettably have fallen into a delusionary trap, allowing themselves to be fooled by the false hope of a fight between the military and civilists... [corrects himself] and civilians.

The amount and the intensity of the disinformation and the government's great shortcoming in directing the job of informing and educating, truly shaping and guiding consciences, explains to us what happened in ways that forces all of us to accept part of the blame for not having done all that was possible, because of confusion in priorities or because of candor or indifference.

However, inside the FDP's heart, the national liberation torch continued burning more and more intensily, passing from one promotion to the next, every time with human elements more aware of their duties and clearer in the tasks pending, until they concluded on 12 August 1983 with the consolidation of a monolithic will.

When we celebrate the birth of an especially select battalion—with the best combat training; with a system to develop discipline, bravery, and professionalism; and created for the important task of defending the country and its main riches—the occasion could not be better timed to especially recognize General Manuel Antonio Noriega, distinguished patriot and undisputed leader of Panama, and all the current FDP members for the great lesson they have given the world in maintaining peace in Panama, particulary during the preceding 14 months.

It has been this way not only because of the majority's desire for defending the country, but also because of the ideas of national security that rule the activities of our Armed Forces and that consist of linking this security to the social welfare and overall development of Panama.

I very much doubt there is a country today where a seditous movement can emerge like the one we have gone through—with so much foreign support, backing, encouragement, and help—and despite that, the armed forces and its officials managed to reestablish order and maintain tranquillity, with no loss of human life, and where the government can say, as we can indeed say: The seditious leaders are scott-free on the streets even though they continue conspiring against their own country, against the fatherland they have not learned to love or feel for.

We have no persecution here—either from the civilian government or the FDP. I would like someone to tell me how many countries there are where such a degree of tolerance of the abuse of civil liberties can equal that of Panama's.

The country's domestic enemies who are abroad posing as political exiles have left on their own free will; they do not return because it is not to their advantage. Those enemies want to be there; they need to be there, because that is where they have become active and conspire, because that is where the conspiracy originated and continues being plotted and where the actions of aggression against the Panamanian fatherland are conceived, decided, and authorized.

The main target of the conspiracy is sabotaging the recovery of the economy. The watchword is to provoke the shortage of basic products, announce every week that paper currency is soon to arrive, every month say next month we shall become socialists, and every weekend say I am under arrest, or I have left, or I have died, so there can be no rest. The idea is for people to become disenchanted and end the recovery advances we have begun—advances that can be noticed more every day, despite the fatherland's enemies.

As things are today, as things have been transpiring to date, I am certain that if all businessmen, all those who have businesses, were to decide to work fully and with dedication—not because of their confidence in the government, but to defend their property and save themselves from ruin—then whatever losses they might have suffered initially would be made up in a very short time.

We are aware of the difficulties and we know what they are seeking. We hope good sense will prevail and they will understand we will continue working for the country

and we will resist for the country's sake. If the recovery is speedy, we will resist; if the recovery is gradual, we will resist; and if the recovery is slow, we will still resist—and we will all have to play a primary part in that resistance, as the FDP has done so far.

You have a mission and a very special institutional objective that is the duty of a military organization: to be on the front line of achieving and consolidating our sovereignty and preserving the peace our people require and are demanding.

The purpose of an army is to defend the integrity of the nation's territory and the national interests of the human society established on that territory. The FDP has been fulfilling that function with singular success only in the past few years, because the Panamanian military institution had been denied that responsibility since the Republic was born. From the time of its foundation, it had been obliged to see that mission carried out by foreign forces. This is a sad reality that those who are civilists today never protested. On the contrary, they applauded it, and perhaps that is how their antipatriotic mentality was forged.

Compatriots of the FDP, as new soldiers of America, who now have the pride of knowing yourselves to be an integral part of the permanent defense of the fatherland, and who have that profound sense of nationalism that is forged in the permanent willingness to give your all for the fatherland, you have an increased conviction day after day that the FDP mission, which is the responsibility and aspiration of all its members, will be definitely perfected on 31 December 1999, with the strict enforcement of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The profound significance of the date we are commemorating today makes me more optimistic and certain of victory at the end of the 11 years remaining until the year 2000, because each patriotic man and woman of the FDP—in conjunction with the battalions of dignity and sovereignty, specifically with Battalion 2000 in the vanguard—are an obvious and beautiful guarantee that the Panamanian nation will enter the coming century liberated, neutral, and in harmony with all nations. It will then channel its energies and its resources toward the construction of our people's prosperity and the grandeur that is our destiny. That is our right, and I am certain we are going to exercise it.

Gen Noriega, I have heeded your request for my support as the president of the nation, your request to the political parties in particular, and to ministers and middle-level officials. I have always kept it in mind, but today I am more encouraged, more willing, more determined to continue carrying the weight of the Panamanian fatherland, which belongs to us, to save it with you, with the FDP, and with the Panamanian people, to which we all belong, because as you said: I have no interest to defend, just the interest of the fatherland that is under attack. Thank you very much.

'Tens of Thousands' View Arias Hearse Motorcade

PA1408133588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 14 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Tens of thousands of Panamanians went out into the streets of Panama City late yesterday afternoon and during most of the night to receive the body of former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid as well as to demand "freedom" and "justice" and to shout antigovernment slogans.

Thousands of followers of the three-time Panamanian president were at the Omar Torrijos Airport awaiting his remains, which were brought from Miami by his widow, Ana Mireya Moscoso, and his nephew, Gilberto Arias.

The airport crowd began to shout "down with the dictatorship" when the coffin was placed inside the hearse that would take more than 5 hours to arrive at the center of the capital located approximately 15 km from the airport.

Huge crowds gathered to see the motorcade as it made its way along the route. All observers describe this event as "the most important popular demonstration in Panama since the pope's visit." [passage omitted]

After midnight, the motorcade had still not reached its destination—the metropolitan cathedral—because downtown streets were virtually impassable because they were filled with thousands of citizens and hundreds of vehicles honking their horns while waiting for the hearse. [passage omitted]

Opposition leaders who were at the airport included Christian Democratic President [PDC] President Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Endara, spokesman of the Authentic Panamenist Party founded by Arnulfo Arias.

Along the route, many supporters of the late political leader waved tricolor flags of the Authentic Panamenist Party and shouted: "it can be felt; it can be felt; Arnulfo is here."

Members of other opposition organizations waved flags of the People's Action Party, the PDC, and Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement].

The organizers of the funeral procession discouraged the presence of government representatives at the airport "in light of their fear that provocations or disturbances might take place."

After Arias' death, Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma decreed that Monday, 15 August, would be a day of national mourning and ordered that "the highest honors" be paid to the former president.

Arnulfo Arias' body will be lying in state all day Sunday at the Panama City Metropolitan Cathedral, where the funeral will be presided over by Archbishop Msgr Marcos Gregorio McGrath at noon on Monday.

Since noon on Saturday, the cathedral and surrounding areas have been filled with supporters who at midnight were still awaiting the arrival of the former president's body.

The delay in the arrival at the cathedral resulted from the presence of many vehicles and people along the route. No traffic or riot police appeared at any time.

Many citizens went to the streets dressed in white—the color used as a symbol of the Panamanian opposition—and carrying black ribbons. [passage omitted]

The passage of the motorcade was particularly difficult through the low-income neighborhoods of Juan Diaz, Rio Abajo, and Pedregal and when it entered Espana Avenue, which is the city's main thoroughfare.

The impressive demonstration surrounding the arrival of Arias' body—details of which were carried live by many radio stations—makes most observers predict that the funeral on Monday will be a massive event with antigovernment overtones. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Alfonsin Returns; Comments on Trip, Debt Issue

PY1208120988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1126 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Aug (TELAM)—Upon his return to the county early this morning, President Raul Alfonsin stressed that the foreign debt was discussed in all the meetings he held in Ecuador because it is the topic that is of the most concern to Latin American countries.

He also stated that during his stay in Quito, he consulted with the other chiefs of state about the fall in international prices and the task of achieving integration for the countries of the region.

In his talk with the press early this morning at Ezeiza International Airport, Alfonsin said that talks are continuing on a common proposal for the foreign debt and that the foreign debt will be an important topic at the Group of Eight meeting in October, in Uruguay.

Asked about the incorporation of Ecuador into this group, the chief of state said that it is possible and is being discussed. We have a very special admiration for the Ecuadoran president.

Alfonsin stated that no special topic was discussed with Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, with whom he met yesterday. During his stay in Ecuador, the Argentine chief of state met with Latin American chiefs of state and former chiefs of state.

Regarding his trip, Alfonsin stressed: I have participated in a democratic party; this happens when the government is handed over to a person who has been elected by the people from a person who has been elected by the people. This is very important in a consolidated democracy like that of Ecuador, he added.

Price Committee on Stabilization Agreements

PY1408203088 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Yesterday the Price Supervisory Committee, made up of representatives from the Argentine Chamber of Commerce, the Argentine Industrial Union and the Domestic Trade Secretariat, reached price stabilization agreements for almost 70 products with 53 companies.

The agreements represent 80 percent of food products and 90 percent of the other sectors involved in the price control project which is the core of the government's new anti-inflation plan.

Price Policy Under-Secretary Carlos Bonvecchi said that "In order to prevent strikes, prices must decline during the third and fourth weeks of August."

He added that August inflation projections are close to July's level of some 25 percent.

The companies agreed to maintain August 2d prices through to September 30 for 47 products such as bread, cheese, prepared soups, corn meal, cooked ham, oil, flour, cookies, salt, beer, mineral water, detergent, soaps, deodorants, cream, alfalfa sprouts, shampoo and dental floss.

For another 22 products, the companies conceded to a 5-percent price reduction. The products included yerba tea, crackers, shellfish, tomato juice, sausages, bondiola, and frozen hamburger patties.

However, milk products prices', excluding cheese, will be increased next Tuesday by 7.5 to 9 percent through September, as opposed to the 5-percent increase set by the government.

Finally, the committee decided to raise carbonated beverage prices by 15 percent, coffee prices by 9 percent and wine prices by 50 percent.

Agriculture Secretary Announces New Aid Plan

PY1208214288 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Aug 88 p 18

[Excerpt] Yesterday Ernesto Figueras, secretary of agriculture, livestock, and fishing, said the problem confronting the agricultural sector "does not justify any protest movement because the producers have not been hurt" by the implementation of the new economic package.

Figueras made this statement during a news conference in which he announced the elimination of foreign exchange withholdings on exports of 500 agricultural products and the new official reference price for next year's grain harvest.

The private sector has interpreted this move as an attempt to discourage rural mobilization and to pacify the producers, "who were disappointed by the plundering of the sector." Figueras made his announcement before the inauguration of the 102d Rural Fair, which opens tomorrow. President Alfonsin will attend the ceremony, and some authorities fear rural businessmen might harshly criticize the economic measures with which they are not content.

Figueras also announced that duties on imports of raw materials for the agricultural sector will be reduced, that the free market will be maintained, and that some products from the provinces—including chicken, pork, and rice—will enjoy special exchange rates.

Regarding the single rate for foreign exchange, Figueras said "agricultural products will have a single foreign exchange rate beginning next year." Figueras added that the current double rate and the fact that agricultural

exports are paid for at the lower commercial rate "does not mean that dollarss from exports are being withheld, so long as the commercial rate is maintained high." [passage omitted]

Consul to RSA Recalled After Expulsions

PY1308184088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1722 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Aug (TELAM)—A Foreign Ministry spokesmen reported that Horacio Ricardo Basso, Argentine consul to the RSA, has been recalled.

The decision comes after the Argentine government expelled Dirk de Wet, RSA consul to Argentina, and three other RSA diplomats who participated in a seminar in Buenos Aires where propaganda for RSA domestic and foreign policy was disseminated without authorization from Argentine authorities.

Iraqi Plane Makes Emergency Landing in Rosario

PY1308013688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0001 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Rosario, 21 Aug (DYN)—A Soviet-made Iraqi plane landed unexpectedly at Fisherton Airport, on the outskirts of Rosario, apparently because of technical malfunctions, aeronautic sources reported.

The Air Region Command of the Central Zone tersely reported that the Ilyushin 86 aircraft was on a commercial charter flight.

The plane landed at Fisherton Airport at noon when the airport waiting room was crowded with people, and it was still at the airport that night.

It was learned that the plane was coming from Brazil and that after a stopover in Rosario it would fly to Cordoba en route to an unknown destination.

The 12 crewmen, all of Iraqi nationality, were lodged in a hotel in downtown Rosario under strict security to keep them from talking with pedestrians and especially with journalists.

Government Declines Comment

PY1308031288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0209 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Rosario (Argentina), 12 Aug (EFE)—Today a Soviet-made "Ilyushin 86" Iraqi plane made an emergency landing at the airport of Rosario, 369 km northwest of Buenos Aires, due to "technical malfunctions," Rosario airport authorities have reported.

Aboard the plane were 12 Iraqi citizens, who were lodged in a hotel in Rosario under strict security measures which prevented them from contacting the press.

The plane landed at noon today and remained tonight on the side of the runway, while the local press speculated that it could be either a cargo or a passenger plane due to its large size.

A Rosario airport source said that the plane was coming from Rio de Janeiro and that it had been contracted for a commercial "charter" flight. However, the source declined to report on the plane's scheduled destination.

An Air Force Regions Command source has told EFE that "tomorrow, Saturday, the airplane will fly to Cordoba—755 km northwest of Buenos Aires, where the second-largest Argentine international airport is located—for repairs," and apologized for not providing more data on this issue.

Similar secrecy was maintained by the Argentine Government, which declined to comment on this event.

Plane Leaves Rosario

PY1308154288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1529 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Rosario, 13 Aug (TELAM)—After remaining for approximately 24 hours at this city's international airport on a technical stopover, the Ilyushin 86 Iraqi plane left at 1039, presumably bound for Cordoba.

Yesterday the huge Soviet-made aircraft landed at the local airport at approximately 1145 from Rio de Janeiro with a 12-man crew on board.

FAMA To Build Helicopters in Joint Venture

PY1208155588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0454 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Codoba, 11 Aug (TELAM)—Six hundred helicopters will be built in the Argentine Manufacturers of Aerospace Material (FAMA) factory in Cordoba under a joint venture between the Argentine Air Force and the Italian company Augusta.

Four hundred of these helicopters will be sent to Italy, while the rest will be sold in Latin America.

This news was confirmed today by FAMA President Brigadier Ruben Corradetti, who, in a statement to L.V.3 Radio Cordoba, said that the helicopters will be built under an agreement signed with the Italian company Augusta. He said that the airframe will be built in Argentina, while the mechanical parts will be brought from Italy.

Corradetti added that two IA-63 Pampa training planes, also built by FAMA, will be sent to the United States soon for demonstration flights and a possible sale to the U.S. Air Force.

The FAMA president said that he will travel to the United States with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena and Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo to show the airplanes at two U.S. bases.

Brazil

Physician Recommends Rest for Sarney

PY1208183588 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Today President Sarney was examined by his private physician (Mesia Dias de Araujo Junior) at the Alvorada Palace.

Yesterday the physician reported that Sarney's ailments were caused by a muscular problem and by working too hard. The physician said he recommended that the president move from the Alvorada Palace to the Granja do Torto [presidential retreat].

The physician also said that the president's ailment is not causing any inconvenience to the his family.

President Praises Private Sector at Ceremony

PY1308143688 Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] On 12 August President Sarney participated in the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Confederation of Industries, CNI. He stressed the role of the private sector in the economy and asked the CNI to support his program of privatization.

[Begin Sarney recording] This is the time for the CNI to mobilize its huge capital of trust and entrepreneurial spirit to advance the ideal of progress that moves on the principle of private initiative.

We have already approved the legal and administrative basis of this policy. We have a new industrial policy pursuing modernization and efficiency to make the Brazilian industrial sector more competitive. The government is implementing an aggressive program to streamline its enterprises and has begun studies to eliminate dozens of unnecessary jobs and enterprises which only strain the public deficit and compete with the private sector.

The policies of debureaucratization and deregulation of the economy open the doors for private enterprises to grow and expand. [end recording]

President Sarney also said that a social pact could help the implementation of mechanisms for a more efficient and better control of inflation.

Portugal's Soares Arrives for 'Private' Visit

PY1308004888 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Portuguese President Mario Soares arrived in Brazil for a private visit. At 1911 local time, President Jose Sarney will open the gate to the Alvorada Palace, his official residence, to receive his colleague from Portugal, Mario Soares, who arrived in Brasilia this afternoon from Quito, Ecuador. Mario Soares traveled on board the Brazilian Air Force Boeing in the company of Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre, who represented the Brazilian government at the inauguration of Ecuador's president.

Also traveling on the same plane were the foreign ministers who will participate tomorrow, 13 August, in the preliminary meeting to prepare for the Group of Eight summit of Latin American presidents, to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in October.

Minister Abreu Sodre, who will also participate in the reception for Portugal's president at the Alvorada Palace, talked about the meeting of the Group of Eight foreign ministers to be held in Itamaraty tomorrow.

[Begin Abreu Sodre recording] We will establish the agenda for the presidential summit in Uruguay. We will make a retrospective analysis of what has been done at the previous presidential summit in Acapulco, Mexico. Then we will study the implications of new developments since Acapulco. [end recording]

Tomorrow, President Sarney will leave Mario Soares and go to the interior of Minas Gerais, where he will meet with state Governor Newton Cardoso. President Mario Soares will take a plane to Rio de Janeiro at noon.

Chile

Garcia Returns From Quito, Views Declaration

PY1308151088 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia Rodriguez returned from Ecuador where he attended the inauguration ceremony of the new social democratic President Rodrigo Borja.

Upon returning to the country, Minister Garcia said that it is up to Chileans to make the decisions regarding the Republic and they will adopt the necessary resolutions in compliance with their freedom, autonomy, and sovereignty.

Garcia made this statement in commenting on the declaration signed by the presidents who attended the presidential inauguration in Ecuador.

Garcia also said that as soon as the document was disclosed, he made a precise statement in Quito noting that, as I have always said, Chile is undergoing a very clear process toward democracy.

The minister added that in line with this, the plebiscite will be held in a serious manner and proof of this is the number of citizens that have already registered with the Electoral courts.

Gen Stange on Presidents' Quito Declaration

PY1408022488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1642 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 13 Aug (EFE)—General Rodolfo Stange, Carabineros director and member of the governing military junta, attempted to minimize the significance of the declaration signed in Quito by six Latin American presidents demanding guarantees for free elections in the upcoming plebiscite.

During his visit to the city of Osorno, 940 km south of Santiago, Stange referred last night to the declaration signed by the presidents of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Ecuador, who noted that "the Chilean plebiscite has a special importance for the region."

In their joint declaration, the presidents stated that they expected the Chilean electoral process "to take place under conditions that guarantee the free expression of the popular will."

Stange said: "If the democracy we currently have in Chile is compared with that of other countries that boast of being very democratic, we can see that Chile is in better condition, as far as its tranquillity, order, progress, and economy are concerned."

Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia, upon his return from Quito, where he attended Rodrigo Borja's presidential inauguration, said that it is up to Chileans to make the "decisions affecting the Republic."

Referring to the declaration signed by the six Latin American presidents, Garcia said: "We will adopt the resolutions appropriate for our freedom, autonomy, and sovereignty."

On States of Exception

PY1308011888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange said that conditions are ripe for holding a calm, orderly plebiscite and for ending the states of exception. He made this remark in the city of Osorno during an official visit.

Stange said that we currently have a law on political parties, a law on elections, television programs on politics, and soon we will have an end to the states of exception.

All of the conditions demanded by the opposition have been met, and the government is implementing its established timetable, Gen Stange said.

The Carabineros director general called on all Chileans to be prudent, adding that the plebiscite will be held on the scheduled date.

The Carabineros director general also asked that the period between the nomination of the candidate and the plebiscite date be one of conciliation and friendship, not of confrontation.

Asked about the declaration of the Episcopal Conference on nominating a consensus candidate, Stange said that due to his many activities he has been unable to research the matter. However, he said that the declaration would be studied by the Government Junta in due time.

Junta Member Matthei on Consensus Candidate

PY1208184188 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Today Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei Aubel agreed with Admiral Jose Toribio Merino Castro in that it is late to appoint a consensus candidate.

The government junta member made this statement at the end of the "Confraternidad-88" operation. He refrained from making any lengthy statement regarding the appointment of the candidate since there are still 18 days to go before the commanders in chief and the Carabineros general director meet to appoint the candidate.

He said that he would take into account the proposal made yesterday by the Episcopal Conference. Matthei said that: I think it is very interesting and of course I will take it into account when we meet in 18 days time.

Ends Military Exercise

PY1308143388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A total of nine countries participated in the "Confraternidad-88" operation that was carried out on Chilean territory.

During this important event, some 600,000 tons of materiel were transported, 100 surgeries performed, and some 200 patients granted medical assistance.

The closing ceremony was held at the Diego Portales building and was presided over by Chilean Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei Aubel.

On the occasion, General Matthei noted that including Chile, 10 Latin American countries participated in the operation. [passage omitted]

'Record Number' Register for Plebiscite

PY1308142188 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] More than 7 million people nationwide have registered with the electoral courts.

According to the electoral service, a record number of citizens registered during the month of July. The record, 555,711 people registered, is the highest number since the process began in February 1987.

Between 25 February 1987 and 31 July 1988 a total of 6,986,879 people registered with the electoral courts.

Government Publishes Book on FPMR Activities

PY1208160588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0335 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Aug (EFE)—According to a study included in a book published by the Attorney General's Office, the Chilean Government attributes a total of 970 terrorist actions to the "Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front" (FPMR) ultraleftist guerrilla group.

The book has not been released to the public yet, but, according to journalistic leaks to the local press, it is entitled "The Triangle of Terror," and includes chapters on the origin, development, ideology, and connections of the Front.

In the study, as in all government publications on the Front, the word "Patriotic," as well as the letter P of the acronym, have been eliminated.

Emerging publicly toward the end of 1983, the "FPMR" is the most belligerant of the armed groups opposed to the government headed by General Augusto Pinochet.

Among its main actions, the FPMR has claimed responsibility for smuggling into the country 55 tons of weapons and explosives, as well as the failed attack against President Pinochet in September 1986, during which five presidential guards died.

Although the government has called this group "the armed branch of the Chilean Communist Party," the book states that the movement has now been "emancipated" from the "PCCh" because of the split within the PCCh over the decision by some members to participate in the October plebiscite on the presidential succession.

5 Bomb Explosions in Santiago, Valparaiso

PY1308020088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Last night five bombs exploded in various parts of Santiago and Valparaiso.

The first bomb damaged the National Institute of Statistics at 428 Bulnes Street. The bomb, which went off at 2130, partially damaged the building's iron fence, broke three glass window panes, and damaged an air conditioner.

At 2300, unidentified individuals hurled a bomb at the Carvajal Paper factory at 5150 Carvajal Avenue. However, the bomb caused no damage.

At 0050 this morning, a third bomb went off at the Nunoa office of Banco de Chile, located at 3057 Irrazabal Street, and damaged some windows.

Two bombs went off in Valparaiso: One at the entrance to the Consumer Mortgage Credit Fund Building at 2891 Talcahuano Street, which caused minor damage; and the other, a few minutes earlier at the southern side of Road 68, at the intersection that leads to El Pino, some 400 meters from Argentina Avenue. This explosion hurled rocks onto the road and interrupted traffic for 20 minutes.

At the time of the explosion, two unidentified individuals placed red MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] flags near packages that were believed to be bombs.

Colombia

Barco Comments on Meeting With Fidel Castro

PA1208144488 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1225 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] President Virgilio Barco said that although there are no formal diplomatic ties with Cuba, relations between Colombia and that nation are good.

Upon arriving in Bogota after attending the inauguration of President Rodrigo Borja, President Barco said that during his meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro, they exchanged views on Latin American problems such as subversion, drug trafficking, and the foreign debt.

Regional Bloc Studied

PA1408194088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1848 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 14 Aug (AFP)—Today Bogota's newspaper EL TIEMPO revealed that the creation of a Latin American bloc, including Cuba, Chile, Nicaragua, and Panama, to face up to the industrialized countries was analyzed by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Colombian President Virgilio Barco during a meeting in Quito last week.

Castro and Barco attended the inauguration of new Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja in Quito.

Today in an extensive article, EL TIEMPO revealed that the idea will be proposed at a SELA meeting to be held next month in Caracas, Venezuela.

According to EL TIEMPO, Fidel Castro reportedly promised to sit down with Chilean President General Augusto Pinochet at a summit meeting of Latin American presidents to set up the bloc.

EL TIEMPO defines the bloc proposed by Castro and Barco as a Latin American united front designed "both to handle political affairs within the international community and to deal with the foreign debt."

"The idea is for Latin America to develop a common position concerning the most important issues that are raised during its confrontations with other blocs of countries throughout the world and with international organizations in order to strengthen Latin America's bargaining position," EL TIEMPO explained. [passage omitted]

It was also reported that in the next few days an announcement will probably be made from either Havana or Bogota concerning preparations for a Latin American presidential summit that will be in addition to the one to be held by the heads of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Uruguay, and Venezuela in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in late October. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Borja Urges Flexibility; Says Policies Sensible

PA1308192588 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Quito, 13 Aug (AFP)—Yesterday Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja made a verbal proposal to the industrialized countries to be more flexible with protectionist barriers "because if we cannot export, we will not have the currency necessary for development and for meeting the foreign debt."

Speaking to local reporters yesterday during a ceremony in his honor in the outskirts of Quito, he insisted that this proposal is the result of a consensus of the conversations he held with the seven Latin American, and one European, president who attended his inauguration Wednesday.

He also regretted the absence of the Spanish, French, and Guatemalan presidents from this "democratic meeting in Quito."

He said the fact that a large number of Latin American authorities met here "should please us, as this is the first sign of international prestige."

He added that the meeting was a pluralist one because it was attended by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as well as by Cuban President Fidel Castro; that is, by people having very different political and economic ideas.

In the domestic field, he asked his fellow countrymen to be calm and have confidence in economic matters, pointing out that his policy will be handled sensibly and calmly, with patriotism, and there will be no surprises.

He insisted that he could not make any announcements about the economic measures that are being studied for fear there will be speculation.

He said the best solution for speculation "is confidence" because speculation "takes place where there is a fear of the future and a certain distrust, but if there is optimism and trust, this problem will be fought."

Meanwhile, new Finance Minister Jorge Gallardo said that a rise in the U.S. prime interest rate from 9.5 percent to 10 percent means an additional payment of $600 million—25 percent of the country's exports—"which Ecuador cannot meet."

He announced that Ecuador will present an "unprecedented" proposal for renegotiating the foreign debt, which has been devalued since payments were suspended in 1987.

Finance Minister on Foreign Debt Renegotiation

PA1408223688 Quito Radio Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Statement by Jorge Gallardo Savala, finance and credit minister, on the renegotiation of Ecuador's foreign debt; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Our renegotiation talks have not been limited to only examining the debt problem and the legal difficulties that exist, but to seeking a long-term global negotiation. The problem with the debt, although you reporters may doubt this, is that the secondary market, through which the Ecuadoran foreign debt is sold at 27 percent according to the latest information, or 27 cents per dollar, is experiencing a phenomenon described in debt renegotiations as the erosion of the negotiation base. In other words, if a bank, for example, has 5 percent of Ecuador's debt, when fresh money is called for during the renegotiation, that bank only provides 5 percent of the negotiated amount. The bank's contribution does not surpass its percentage.

The old debt that we are currently negotiating on the secondary markets has been estimated in New York at approximately 20 percent of the Ecuadoran debt with commercial banks, or approximately $1.2 billion. The base has eroded because the sector holding 20 percent does not want to contribute more money to Ecuador. That sector did not buy the debt to contribute money to

Ecuador; it bought the debt because of the economic advantages it offered. In other words, the sector wants to receive 100 percent in interest (?for what it purchased at 27 percent). Therefore, the renegotiation of the debt has now become qualitatively difficult because our strategy requires that we no longer focus on a single group of creditors but on various sectors.

The Finance Ministry's effort to strengthen public credit is aimed at establishing the general outline of our renegotiation strategy as soon as possible. This strategy is not going to be—listen carefully—not going to be carried out in traditional terms.

New Armed Forces High Command Announced

PA1308041388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0307 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Quito, 12 Aug (EFE)—Today the National Secretariat of Public Information (SENDIP) announced that the top commands of the Ecuadoran Armed Forces have been restructured following the inauguration of President Rodrigo Borja, in accordance with the Ecuadoran Constitution.

The new members of the Ecuadoran Military High Command are Vice Admiral Hugo Armando Unda Aguirre, who, effective today, is commander in chief of the Navy; Division General German Edelberto Ruiz Zurita, is the new commander in chief of the Army; and Colonel Mario Augusto Naranjo, is the new commander in chief of the Ecuadoran Air Force.

Vice Adm Unda, being senior in rank and service, was designated chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command;he will replace Army General Jorge Azanza.

The SENDIP reported that the new Armed Forces commanders replace Vice Admiral Fernando Alfaro, Division General Jorge Acosta Briones, and Lieutenant General Carlos Jaramillo, respectively, all of whom requested retirement from active duty before the new commanders were appointed.

Nicaragua's Ortega on U.S. Policy, 'Aggression'

PA1208174788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1542 GMT 12 Aug 88

[News conference held by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporter at the Colon Hotel in Quito, Ecuador—live]

[Text] [Ortega] I just want to say a few things. First, I want to express our gratitude to the Ecuadoran people, who during our brief stay here in Quito have shown in many ways their solidarity with and affection toward the Nicaraguan people. [4-second break in reception] ...to President Rodrigo Borja for his invitation to attend the inauguration of his government.

Regarding the current situation in Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean, we believe it is most important to join efforts and seek points of agreement among the Latin American and Caribbean countries in order to establish a new type of economic and political relationship with the United States. We believe this is very important for the future of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We have made progress by taking positions independent of U.S. policy. Latin America today is not the same as in 1968, when governments were totally subordinated to U.S. policy. Today Latin America is more belligerent and independent in facing U.S. policy. However, the United States has not given up the Monroe Doctrine, it has not given up the use of force, and it will not give up the right it has granted itself to impose governments and to ignore the international legal order. We Latin Americans must struggle to strengthen the international legal order. Simultaneously with that effort, we must strive for a change in U.S. economic and political policy. This change should be historical in the sense that it should put an end, once and for all, to U.S. imperialist policy. This way relations between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean will be respectful and friendly, and those relations will really contribute to our peoples' development.

In Central America, and particularly in Nicaragua, we continue to face U.S. aggression. The U.S. Senate has approved a package [of aid to the contras] totaling approximately $70 million: $27 million in humanitarian aid, $16.5 million in future military aid, another amount for transport planes, and the remainder for what is known as a reserve; in other words, if we down a CIA plane, it will be replaced. All this aid—as they call it—to the contras contradicts and goes against the Esquipulas plan, against the Sapoa agreement between Nicaragua and the contras, and against the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

Nicaragua rejects this policy of the U.S. Senate, because the Senate is violating both U.S. and international laws, it is trampling upon the Esquipulas peace agreement, and it is ignoring the desires of the Central American presidents and all the world's peoples, who have clearly condemned the U.S. policy of force, violence, and terrorism against the Nicaraguan people.

From here in Quito, which has become Latin America's capital in the past few days, we want to make a new call to the U.S. Government to immediately establish or begin a serious dialogue with Nicaragua to discuss security maters. It would not be to discuss Nicaraguan domestic affairs, because we are not interested in discussing U.S. domestic affairs, whether there is democracy in the United States, whether there are violations of human rights in the United States, or whether there is freedom of the press in the United States. The dialogue would be to discuss security matters. We demand that the United States immediately stop its aggression against

Nicaragua and that it not continue approving new funds for the contras. In this way, it would be truly contributing to peace. We also invite the contras to comply with the Sapoa Agreements and invite them to come to Managua at the end the month, from 26 to 29 August. We propose these 4 days to meet and to continue working on the discussion of the Sapoa Agreements.

They should come to Managua. It would make no sense to hold the meeting in another country. We were not the ones who proposed Managua. The contras were the ones who were always interested in going to Managua. The Yankee government was the one that was always interested in having the meeting in Managua. Therefore, since we are in Managua and since there has been progress, we should continue meeting in Managua. The only place besides Managua that we would accept would be Washington. The meetings could be held in Washington because the aggression against Nicaragua starts from Washington. Therefore, it would be feasible to discuss peace there, at the place where the terrorist policy originates. But I insist that the meeting be held on 26, 27, 28, and 29 August in Managua.

[Reporter] What would be the agenda?

[Ortega] The agenda would be to continue the peace plan because we already have proposed a timetable for the implementation of the agreements we signed in Sapoa. This proposal has 32 points, 22 of which we have already approved, so we should continue discussing the remaining points. That is the agenda.

[Reporter] President Arias yesterday offered Costa Rican territory for the meeting with the contras. He said in a news conference that conditions are not suitable for holding it in Managua.

[Ortega] Well, I think conditions are suitable for holding it in Managua because we have already held meetings in Costa Rica, in the Dominican Republic, and in Guatemala, and there was no progress. Progress was made in Managua, where 22 points have already been approved. The logical thing would be to continue in Managua. To go to Costa Rica or to another country outside the region would be to simply destroy the Sapoa Agreements. That is what the U.S. Government and the contras wanted when they proposed a meeting outside Managua. This is not just a proposal from a geographical standpoint but also from a political standpoint. In such a meeting outside Managua, they would say: Let us discuss a new peace plan; the 22 points already approved are worthless, and the Sapoa Agreements are worthless. This would mean starting from scratch.

[Reporter] What is your opinion about a proposal by the Nobel Peace Prize winner [Costa Rican President Arias] to the effect that to achieve peace in Central America, the political prisoners in Nicaragua must be released, all the closed media must be reopened, and a dialogue with the contras must resume in a country other than Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Everyone is free to think as he pleases. In Nicaragua, common criminals are in jail because they have committed crimes. In any part of the world, if a person commits a crime, he goes to jail. There are even former members of the military who committed crimes and are now in jail. There are also persons in jail who were members of the ruling party—the FSLN—but they committed a crime and are now in jail. We cannot make any exceptions. There are laws in Nicaragua, as there are laws in all countries. Laws must be respected.

Therefore, there is no sense in including in the negotiations legal and constitutional aspects that have been implemented by a legally recognized state. The Sapoa Agreements clearly specify that all negotiations must take place within the framework of the Constitution and with respect for the constitutional framework of each and every one of the Central American countries. That is a principle established in the Esquipulas Agreement. I do not agree with President Arias's idea. I think the Central American presidents who are interested in finding a peaceful solution should not make demands of Nicaragua, but they should demand that the United States respect Nicaragua. The United States is attacking Nicaragua. It is easier, however, to make demands of Nicaragua than to make demands of the United States.

[Reporter] Has there been a setback in the peace agreements in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] We have not stepped back. I do not think we should refer to the Central American presidents because we did not appoint any of the Central American presidents as judges, inasmuch as we all signed the agreement. President Arias and the Costa Rican Government must comply with the peace plan because democracy does not work perfectly in Costa Rica. There are some flaws, some problems. When the International Verification and Follow-up Commission [CIVS] visited Costa Rica, it pointed this out. If we are going to refer to an evaluation of the peace plan in Central America, we must refer to the report presented by the CIVS, which is made up of the OAS and UN secretaries general and the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups. The CIVS report clearly pointed out that Nicaragua is the country that has complied the most with the agreements. We did not say it. The CIVS said it. Why should a Central American president now become a judge when nobody has assigned him this role? He signed the agreement, and he also promised to comply with the peace plan. The agreement was signed by Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, all of which must comply with the peace plan.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] are you hopeful of a change with Michael Dukakis?

[Ortega] I am aware of Mr Dukakis' statements, and if he is elected and implements that policy, I think he would be doing the United States a favor. He would be contributing to a new type of relationship between the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Reporter] Commander, did you recently meet in Quito with President Arias and Commander Fidel Castro?

[Ortega] I was unable to meet with President Arias because he left early. Remember that I arrived here the day after President Borja's inauguration. I did talk with President Fidel Castro. I also spoke with President Alfonsin, President Barco, and President Sanguinetti with whom I believe some newspaper said I had not met. In fact, we met right here in this hotel. We also discussed the issues we were interested in discussing during a luncheon at the Foreign Ministry. We have availed ourselves of this opportunity, and I am here to talk with other leaders.

[Reporter] Is it true Chilean guerrillas are being trained in Nicaragua, as is said in our country?

[Ortega] I think Nicaragua is too far from Chile to make it possible for Chilean guerrillas to be trained in Nicaragua.

We must take into consideration that when there are situations like the one in Chile, guerrillas are created spontaneously as the result of injustice and the lack of liberty and democracy. If there are guerrillas in Chile, it is the responsibility of the Yankee government, which ordered the military coup against Salvador Allende's legitimate government.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We have spoken in broad terms about all the contacts made and about the common interests all Latin Americans have regarding issues such as the economy, the foreign debt, and peace in Central America. We have spoken in general terms.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Sergio Bushmann, who smuggled weapons into Chile, freely told the press that he had received training in Nicaragua and made contacts there with the persons who helped him smuggle the weapons into Chile. What can you say about that?

[Ortega] I do not know this person. The problem is that I have not heard his remarks. [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] It seems the United States has failed to reach a consensus on Nicaragua. What results have you achieved in your visit [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] I think there is concern in Latin America over various problems affecting it. During the Malvinas Islands war, [words indistinct] support of Latin America. Latin America is concerned over Nicaragua. This has led to the creation of the Contadora and Support Groups. Latin America is also concerned over Panama. It seems the United States wanted to topple that government [words indistinct] and decided to topple it. That is all. We are participating in a meeting to discuss current events. We have not had the opportunity to talk about this matter [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] agreement of some presidents [words indistinct] regarding your visit. [Words indistinct] the Ecuadoran Government.

[Ortega] I did not know about the document. Don't forget that I just came here and have had a very tight schedule.

[Reporter] What will be the result of the resumption of diplomatic relations with our country? Will this help establish ways to bring peace to Central America? Despite the presence of all these Latin American presidents, nothing has been achieved, according to your [words indistinct].

[Ortega] The very fact that so many presidents of diverse ideologies have come here shows we are committed to solving problems through dialogue and to a Latin American coordination. All of this entails [10-second break in reception]

[Reporter, in progress] ...Commander Fidel Castro and you. That concern was expressed in remarks to the effect the Ecuadoran Government is going to lean to the left. Can you comment on this matter?

[Ortega] All this shows imperialist arrogance. Gorbachev meets with Reagan, and no one says anything. Reagan goes to Moscow and speaks highly about his visit and his meeting with Gorbachev. No one says anything. I think this comes to [word indistinct] that overall policy.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] This is nothing new. We have explained that Sandinism is a force that has its roots in Nicaragua's history, [words indistinct] universal thought. When we talk of socialism and our socialist leanings, we are talking of socialist leanings that were adjusted to our situation. That means we are not going to fall into patterns or dogmas [words indistinct] but are going to be creative. That is what we have been doing in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] mixed economy?

[Ortega] We are doing that.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] relations with the United States after January?

[Ortega] I believe that regardless of whether Dukakis or Bush wins, he will not be able to continue Reagan's policy, because it has been shown that after 8 years Reagan's policy has failed. It is unlikely Bush would want to repeat history. They will have to find another solution.

[Reporter] Do you feel Dukakis is a better prospect?

[Ortega] Dukakis clearly spoke about this matter in his speech. He said he will not topple governments and will not support the contras. He will seek negotiated solutions. That falls more in line with the Latin American spirit.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] mixed economy is incompatible with socialism.

[Ortega] I have to thank you now because we are in a hurry. Thank you.

Departs for Managua

PA1208182088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Quito, 12 Aug (AFP)—Today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega returned to Managua, following a 1-day visit to Ecuador where he met with presidents of the region and reestablished diplomatic relations with Ecuador.

Rodrigo Borja, the new Ecuadoran president, saw Ortega off at the airport with all of the appropriate honors.

Rodrigo Borja was inaugurated last Wednesday. Ortega arrived yesterday and was greeted enthusiastically with demonstrations of support by hundreds of citizens who followed him to the different places that he visited.

Ortega met in Quito with his counterparts Rodrigo Borja, Fidel Castro (Cuba), Julio Maria Sanguinetti (Uruguay), Virgilio Barco (Colombia), and Raul Alfonson (Argentina).

Castro Continues Visit; Activities in Quito

Meets With Sanguinetti, Barco

FL1208194488 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Report by Pedro Martinez Pirez from Quito, Ecuador]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first activity of President Fidel Castro on 11 August in Quito, capital of Ecuador, was a meeting at this Colon Hotel with Uruguayan President Jose Maria Sanguinetti.

[Begin recording] [Castro] It was a very pleasant meeting. We spent a very good hour together; many and varied topics were discussed; bilateral relations, the Central American situation, the general situation, and economic problems. It was a very good and pleasant exchange. I feel it was the same for him. You can always get so much when contact is direct and you can listen to views. The president received us with great hospitality and warmth.

[Unidentified reporter] What was the topic, Comrade?

[Castro] I already told you the topic. We discussed the problems...

[Reporter, interrupting] Anything in particular?

[Castro] No, nothing in particular. We discussed everything in general. [Indistinct crosstalk]

[Martinez Pirez] Mr President, Cuban television is interested in your opinion.

[Sanguinetti] Well, we have had a very interesting exchange of views. As President Castro said, it was very pleasant and open. I would say, above all, that it was very open. We have discussed the whole gamut of Latin American issues, all the areas of conflict, the prospects, the possibilities. Without a doubt, I believe all of this is very positive and constructive, the fact that a dialogue in Latin America can go beyond the differences in systems.

[Martinez Pirez] Would you say that Latin America unity emerges stronger following these festivities?

[Sanguinetti] All these festivities have been festivities of Latin American unity.

[Martinez Pirez] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Also at the Colon Hotel shortly after his meeting with Sanguinetti, Fidel Castro met with Colombian President Virgilio Barco. [Begin Castro recording] We have talked about problems [words indistinct]. They are very important, common Latin American interests, problems that give rise to other problems. That's what we have discussed, not effects but causes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Speaks With Legislators

FL1208180388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Report by Special Correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez from Quito, Ecuador]

[Text] At the very moment that this newscast is being broadcast at 1300 [1700 GMT] in Havana, Cuba, our country's president, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, is holding a dialogue with parliamentarians of the national congress. The dialogue is being held in the Legislative Palace where the transfer of the presidency occurred on 10 August.

The 71 parliamentarians—this is a unicameral congress—asked that the president of Cuba give a speech to the congress but the commander in chief preferred to hold a dialogue with them. As I said, this dialogue is being held now.

The Cuban president will hold a reception tonight here in Quito. Tomorrow—the time has not yet been determined—he will meet with journalists for a press conference which is raising many expectations. Many journalists who were to depart Quito today decided to stay for tomorrow's press conference with Fidel.

Last night, the commander of the Sandinist revolution, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, was received at the home of the notable Ecuadoran painter, Oswaldo Guayasamin, in a reception that was attended by many of the new ministers of the government of Rodrigo Borja, including well-known personalities and also our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Newspapers, radio, and television continue to report extensivly on the visit made to Ecuador by President Fidel Castro.

Congress Visit 'Unscheduled'

PA1308012288 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The president of the Ecuadoran Congress, Wilfrido Lucero, and several congressional deputies met this morning and in the afternoon with Cuban Commander Fidel Castro Ruz, who told them that Latin America's foreign debt is unpayable.

The legislators and the Cuban president also discussed the conflictive situation in Central America and concluded that international law establishes that the people must enjoy the right of self-determination.

The private meeting which took place in the Legislative Palace lasted 4 hours. The participants discussed the subject of integration and cooperation among the countries of the continent. Mr Lucero characterized the visit as positive and pointed out the importance of the presence of Commander Fidel Castro in our country.

[Begin Lucero recording] This was a courtesy visit to the National Congress. It caught the attention of almost all the legislators. It was an unscheduled and informal visit. [Words indistinct] the visit to the legislators when we realized that there was interest in that subject. We discussed subjects related to the knowledge Cuba has gained throughout the course of its revolution, which has lasted for almost 30 years and is a source of interest for everybody [words indistinct]. We also discussed economic matters, the foreign debt, development, international relations, Latin American relations, medicine, dengue, AIDS, and the need for Latin American unity. We talked about everything.

In my opinion, this was a very important meeting. This is the opinion of the other legislators also. Although the meeting was informal, it was worthwhile. [end recording]

L.A., Other Issues Discussed

PA1308014288 Havana International Service in Spanish 2323 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Report by special correspondent Pedro Martinez Pires from Quito, Ecuador—live]

[Excerpt] The news item of today is President Fidel Castro's meeting with the 71 members of Ecuadoran National Congress which is a unicameral congress.

Fidel Castro was invited by the new parliamentarians who took office on 10 August. The meeting was held on the second floor of the Legislative Palace in the room known as the Hall of the Presidents of the Congress.

The meeting lasted 1000 - 1400; in other words, there were 4 hours of continuous informal dialogue that had the appearance of a legislative news conference because the parliamentarians asked questions of our commander in chief, and Fidel Castro spoke about everything: Cuba, the Latin American situation, economic problems, the history of our Latin America, and even his impression of this visit to Ecuador.

While Fidel Castro was speaking, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra also visited the National Congress. He received from the Congress President Wilfredo Lucero a diploma which was issued by the outgoing congress; that is, the 71 parliamentarians who left office on 10 August. The diploma extended congratulations to the Nicaraguan Government on the recent celebration of its anniversary on 19 July, the date of the Sandinist revolutionary triumph.

I am at a loss for words with which to describe this event. In fact, some Ecuadoran newsmen with whom I spent long hours at the National Congress told me they could not remember a time when the Ecuadoran Congress has been visited simultaneously by two Latin American presidents for an internal congressional ceremony. Eight Latin American presidents were present for the inaugural ceremony, but a visit of this kind is a singular event in the history of the Ecuadoran Congress.

The congress was very pleased. I was an observer for a long time, and Fidel Castro was often interrupted with applause. The chief of the Cuban revolution was asked all kinds of questions, and he responded with that capacity for instruction he has demonstrated over the past 30 years. [passage omitted]

More on Dialogue at Congress

FL1308144388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Report by special correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez from Quito, Ecuador]

[Excerpt] The information services of Cuban television are here in Quito, capital of Ecuador, in the Hall of Presidents at the National Congress of Ecuador. The

president of Cuba has been speaking extensively here with the 71 parliamentarians who make up the unicameral Congress of Ecuador. It has been an extensive and very cordial dialogue, almost a legislative news conference, here in this palace where the transfer of power to the new president of Ecuador, Dr Rodrigo Borja, occurred on 10 August.

[Begin Castro recording] The nations have shown that they are capable of resisting, even small nations. History shows this. No power, no matter how strong it is, is capable of crushing the resistance of a nation. We have had recent historical examples illustrating this.

Now, what did the United States feel for the Central Americans? Contempt. What did they think we were? Some kind of inferior human group, a mixture of black, Indian, and Spanish, not capable of anything. Maybe, they even thought we were cowards.

Well, the first lesson they were taught was by Cuba. This is the country they saw as the country of music, guaracha [Cuban music and ballroom dance], disorder. They did not know about the potential heroism that was hidden in that nation. They did not know about the potential heroism shown by the Nicaraguans; it's amazing. The heroism shown by the Salvadorans is amazing. I am also certain that if the Panamanians are put to the test of combat, they are going to impress them with their heroism. Those who read the history of this hemisphere know that we don't have a ounce of cowardice; they also know the feats that the liberators of this hemisphere were able to accomplish. Therefore, they cannot consider us cowards, or contemptible people because I think it's difficult to find a better combatant than one who is motivated like the Latin American combatant. So, the small countries have shown them that they cannot despise us. We have shown them that we are a nation capable of resisting and capable of performing any feat. I think that they have to start learning these truths. They also have to learn the lessons of modern history.

I add, why do I speak with such conviction about this? We come from a small country with a relatively small population. We have had to rack our brains thinking about how to solve the problem of confronting a military aggression from the United States. This is a threat which has existed for 30 years. It is a threat which became strong during this Reagan administration, in particular. It forced us to prepare ourselves for 8 years for an aggression action. The United States had the tendency to blame us for those problems. And Haig would say: You must go to the source, and the source is Cuba. The United States would threaten us with their battleships, aircraft carriers, and all that. So we had to develop defensive measures—a small country before a collossus, a giant. We have had to rack our brains a lot. However, we have been able to create a defense mechanism which guarantees that the country is unconquerable, invincible, and even if it was totally occupied it would continue its struggle. [applause] Our country is even prepared for fighting under conditions of total occupation. We are organized from one end to the other. These people are organized in any corner of the mountains, swamps, and everywhere. Men, women, and children know what to do. This is not a matter of 10 other divisions against 10 other divisions. It is a matter of the divisions that a struggling nation can mobilize, the whole nation, everywhere, and armed.

We have millions of arms. Our people are organized, we know who works in production, who does what, what each doctors does, where they go, and what everyones place is. We have acquired that security with the knowledge that the enemy will suffer a great defeat, no matter how big he is. It is not a matter of us taking Washington, or us going to sink the U.S. fleet, battleships, or aircraft carriers. It is a matter of so many Americans dying in that struggle. And so many of them will die everyday that they will finally have to leave. Of course, we don't want to go through that experience because we know the hundreds of lives it would cost, Cuban lives, in a venture such as that. But we do know that in the end they would have to leave. That gives our people a lot of security, and they know it. They know it and understand it; and those who understand it, respect us more.

They have forced us to undertake colossal efforts. But we have lived through the experience, we are not talking about a theory. We are talking about what we have lived through, and have had to do. You have no idea how many hours, how much time, energy, and resources our people have had to use. We have (?divisions) (he says: "divisio...", does not complete word and says: units) complete units underground; they have 20 meters of rocks above. We have fortification systems, we have everything, but that costs. [audience is heard mumbling] The United States has forced us to spend. Peace is also convenient for us. Hopefully, that hour of peace and distension will come so that we can dedicate ourselves more fully to the development of our country, the building of the new life for our people. And I know very well how many houses could be built with the cost of a hangar. I know how many child care centers or schools could be built. I especialy know the cost of the material that has to be used in fortifications, and in defense.

But I think that all the great powers, sooner or later, will learn this lesson. Not even their possession of nuclear arms makes them omnipotent so as to impose their will on any nation. We all have the right to be respected, and the right to our independence, and our freedom. I think that sooner or later we will be able to have that respect. I am sorry if I have spoken too much on this [applause interrupts him]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Interviewed on Visit

FL1308122388 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by special correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez and unidentified reporters on 12 August in Quito—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez Pirez] Commander, what has been the outcome of this, the 4th day of your visit to Quito? What is your assessment?

[Castro] Personally, I am ecstatic about my contact with the people. It has been a great experience, an unforgettable experience. I am going to spend part of my birthday here, at least a few hours of it. But I am going before you kick me out. [laughter] One should not stay a minute longer than necessary. I have made an effort to keep all my appointments, all of them. I still have two things to do, including holding a news conference.

[Reporter] When will you hold the news conference?

[Castro] Most likely tomorrow. Principally for the Peruvian.... [corrects himself] Ecuadoran press, for some of the accredited members of the press; otherwise, we don't have room for it. It becomes an assembly. I would like conditions suitable for reflection. There are many topics, very delicate topics. I don't want to rush and talk about any old thing at the risk of making mistakes.

[Reporter] Of course.

[Castro] It would not be good for anyone.

[Reporter] This is a very important visit. This is the first time that you have come to South America in 17 years.

[Castro] Yes, 17 years. I was in Nicaragua twice; Nicaragua belongs to Latin America but not South America.

[Martinez Pirez] There were reports that you had visited Ecuador prior to 1959. Is that so?

[Castro] No. That would have been nice. I was in Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. Coincidentally, I was in Bogota at the time of the "Bogotazo."

[Martinez Pirez] You were in Costa Rica too.

[Castro] I visited Costa Rica during my stay in Mexico, before returning to Cuba.

[Reporter] As regards South America, you are familiar only with Chile and Ecuador?

[Castro] Chile and Ecuador, yes. Once, in early 1959 [as heard], when I was a child, when I was a child [repeats himself] I made a brief tour [Castro chuckles] of Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. Very brief. I was in those three countries. Well, I was an absolute novice. Imagine.

[Martinez Pirez] Commander, I have read....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] come again to Ecuador.

[Castro] Well, I was very honored by the invitation, first of all. I like the country. I have become friends with many Ecuadoreans who have been in Cuba for various events. They have always been excellent. I have met with a lot of people who have been here.

Third [as heard], we are always excluded, discriminated against. So, when we are not excluded, when we are not discriminated against, when we are invited, we are not going to refrain from coming, whatever the risks involved in traveling, risks stemming, as you know, from the practices of our adversaries.

[Martinez Pirez] Commander, you have said that man does not live by oxygen alone. Why is that?

[Castro] Well, not by oxygen alone.

[Martinez Pirez] Talking about the altitude.

[Castro] Ah, that's true, speaking about the altitude. Not by oxygen alone. I alluded to the fact that there's less oxygen up here. But there is so much affection, so much warmth, that they make up for it. So, recalling the phrase, man does not live by bread alone, I said, not by oxygen alone.

[Martinez Pirez] You have been observed admiring nature at the meeting with Oscar Arias and on your arrival in Quito. In fact, there are some Ecuadoreans who are thrilled by that.

[Castro] They were telling me that Quito could be the capital, that Bolivar had said Quito could be the capital of a united Latin America. I said, well, if you ask me, I'll vote in favor right away. I am going to be biased, because I have liked the city so much, its climate, its physical beauty, and especially the people.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] I was impressed because I know it from history. I admire the heroism with which the Ecuadoreans fought that battle. They made the country finally free.

[Reporter] Like the Sierra Maestra.

[Castro] I think it's higher. Well, Turquino might be higher if you start from sea level, but notice that this peak is more than 2,000 km, a mountain over another mountain. How high is the Pichincha? [someone says: More than 4,000] I saw Chimborazo on my way to Chile. I was very impressed. How high is Chimborazo? Six thousand. Tremendous. An impressive white-capped peak. Well, I have to resume my meeting. I will talk to you tomorrow. I'll meet with you tomorrow.

Holds News Conference

PA1308171188 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1501 GMT 13 Aug 88

[News conference held by Cuban President Fidel Castro with domestic and foreign reporters, with Jorge Leon moderating, at the International Center for Advanced Journalism Studies, CIESPAL, in Quito—live]

[Text] [Leon] Before asking your questions, I would first like to thank the National Journalists Union of Ecuador for their support and CIESPAL and its director for

allowing us to use their facilities to hold this meeting. Ask your questions in order. We ask all colleagues not to interrupt while a question is being asked. We want to give most of you the opportunity to ask your questions. I have here the names of some colleagues who want to ask questions. Let us begin with (Hernan Jube) from the newspaper HOY in Quito. The rest may raise their hands. Please give us your name and the newspaper you work for.

[(Jube)] [Question indistinct]

[Castro] It is not easy to analyze my visit and my work. I can give you my impressions instead. The impressions I have and the ones I will take with me are very good. My meeting with the Ecuadoran people and the people of Quito, which is where we are now, will be unforgettable. I will never have enough words to express my appreciation. From my point of view, the meetings and the exchange of ideas with the different leaders who were present here have been excellent. From that point of view, I may add that we have made intense efforts. There has practically been no time to rest, sleep, or eat.

It would not be advisable for me to talk about the topics of each of the meetings I held because, among other things, discretion is not a trademark of journalists. [laughter]

We have talked about important matters that have to do with the current situation and with the most burning problems, such as the foreign debt, unfair trade, the new international economic order, drug trafficking problems, and the need to find solutions to these problems. We talked about bilateral issues as well. That is why I believe I have held extraordinarily positive meetings with the presidents. My meeting with the Ecuadoran people was a very emotional one and I believe to a large extent that this is a symptom of new times.

Since I am famous for talking too much, well, today I will not talk much. [laughter]

[Leon] Marcos Nunez from Quito EL COMERCIO wants to ask a question.

[Nunez] Thank you. [Question indistinct]

[Castro] [Words indistinct] a torture chamber. One cannot do without that, of course.

[Nunez] Commander, you have said the United States does not want to achieve peace in Central America. What [words indistinct] to the Contadora Group to achieve [word indistinct] in Central America?

[Castro] Do you think I can answer in 2 seconds what a group of countries has not been able to resolve in 7 or 8 years? [applause] If I could make a recommendation, it is that they should persist. Their work has been very useful and positive. For the first time, Latin America is trying to solve its problems by itself. Its efforts have been greatly appreciated. They have worked to prevent another U.S. intervention in Central America and Latin America. Despite ups and downs, their efforts have produced results. I believe this group of countries must continue to fight to stop intervention and to find a peaceful, honorable, dignified, and fair solution to Central American problems.

[Leon] Well, we will give the floor now to [words indistinct] who has also expressed her desire to speak....

[Castro, interrupting] At this rate I think many will speak. Well, not speak, ask questions.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Castro] You can do with me [words indistinct] behind the lights.

[Reporter] [Word indistinct] do you believe [words indistinct] of the new government of Rodrigo Borja is [words indistinct] to socialism [words indistinct]?

[Castro] What a question! First, the relations have been increasingly developing as the circumstances have permitted. I believe they will continue to develop. I also think that better conditions are being created every day for the development of the friendship and cooperation between our nations. Therefore, your question about the Rodrigo Borja government and [words indistinct] the Social Democrats could be.... [Castro changes thought] Please repeat the word you said.

[Reporter] Do you believe the (?future) democracy of Rodrigo Borja's government means [words indistinct]?

[Castro] Honorable successor of socialism. I would say it could perhaps be the honorable successor of the country's traditions. It is a group worthy of the struggle to solve the country's problems. However, we cannot establish a relationship between Cuban problems and Ecuadoran problems, or between Cuban policy and the Social Democrats' policy.

I think it would be better to define it this way: I believe Rodrigo Borja is the appropriate president for this country. [applause] I am certain he will struggle and do his utmost to solve the huge problems Ecuador, like every country, has to solve. I imagine he will do things in the Ecuadoran manner, to solve Ecuadoran problems. [applause] He will act in a truly different manner from the way we use to solve our problems. He will have a different style although we have many things in common—do you know what we have in common? Problems, particularly economic problems, those related to the international situation, the debt, unjust trade, with all those forms through which our countries are [words indistinct].

I think any country that struggles to solve its problems, any leader who struggles to solve those problems, can consider himself not a successor of any other system, but rather an honorable succesor of the forerunners and of the liberators of our nations.

[Leon] We will now give the floor to Rafael Orrejola from AFP....

[Castro, interrupting] I cannot see if I am talking to the AFP correspondent; I cannot see him.

[Leon] Please raise your hand.

[Orrejola] [Question indistinct]

[Castro] Back in 1985, perhaps there were few of us. There is certainly a growing number of countries that support that point of view. Today, I believe there is an almost unanimous belief that the debt is unpayable and uncollectable. Time has proven this. Conditions are becoming more difficult all the time. We are like a man that has been in an accident and is taken to a hospital. Instead of being given a blood transfusion, blood is drawn from him. I do not know if this comparison with a man who has had an accident is correct. Perhaps it would be better to compare him with a corpse that is taken to the hospital, and then instead of performing an autopsy on him, what little blood is left in the body is drained from him.

I say this because in 1985 we waged a great battle; at least we waged a fiery battle. The transfer of net deposits was well over $30 billion, not including what was lost due to capital flight, unequal trade, and the damage done to our countries due to protectionism and other interventionist measures that the capitalist and developed countries use against Third World countries. That already caused a tremendous loss.

The transfer of resources has now decreased. I understand that in 1987, it amounted to $15.7 billion. Nobody knows why. Capital flight has also decreased, although there is always some capital that leaves. That is why I was making a comparison here with the individual who needs blood, but instead has blood drawn from him. We barely have any blood left. Nonetheless, they are drawing blood from us, and they are still drawing (?$700 million). That, in addition to what has been taken out since 1982, totals $145 billion.

It is as though we were back in the early days of being a colony—in the last century—when we were forced to mine our gold and silver, our country's resources. What is happening today is practically the same. Colonialist countries financed the development of the current developed capitalist powers. Now they are doing exactly the same, only now we can only give less all the time, because we have less all the time. [applause]

[Station announcer interrupts to say that station is ending coverage of Castro's news conference due to "other commitments"]

More on News Conference

PA1308203888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1850 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Report by Gerardo Gonzalez Vega]

[Text] Quito, 13 Aug (EFE)—During the only news conference he held during his stay in Quito, which began on 9 August, Fidel Castro today proposed Latin American unity to overcome the problems affecting the countries in the region.

As an example, Castro recalled that European nations, which fought among themselves for centuries, created the EEC. He stressed that for Latin America, which is currently "fragmented" ["balcanizada"], integration "is the only way to attain a better future for our peoples, which they deserve."

Castro was frequently applauded by the hundreds of journalists that attended the news conference, which lasted almost 2 hours.

Castro, who today celebrated his 62d birthday, won the hearts of his audience when he said he was happy to be in Quito on that special day. He described Quito as "A city located in the heart of the world," and proposed that it be declared the capital of a united Latin America, provided that "Some of its mountains are cut down so planes can land more easily."

Castro discussed all the various topics raised by the press— Angola, "perestroyka," Central American peace, foreign debt, and relations with the United States. He included several recent anecdotes.

He said that at the inauguration of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja he met with several Latin American presidents who attended the ceremony. However, he said he could not comment on the matters discussed "as it would not be tactful." Castro said that although no official communiques were issued, those meetings were very useful. He said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias overestimated Cuban influence when he said—after they met here—that Castro's help is needed for peace in Central America.

He stressed that peace must be achieved without sacrificing peoples' dignity, justice, and liberty and accused the United States of being "arrogant interventionists." He added that in the case of Central America, Contadora Group countries have prevented U.S. intervention, which shows that "Latin Americans can handle their own affairs."

Castro said: "The United States is increasingly isolated in this hemisphere." Castro also talked about the little time that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz spent in Quito and about the lack of response that he received on 10 August. The Cuban leader said: "I almost applauded him," thinking he was some Latin American figure.

After saying that Latin America has paid $145 billion since 1982 because of the foreign debt, Castro said that "To continue making us pay is just like taking blood from a seriously injured man instead of putting it in him.

If the situation remains unchanged and industrialized countries' protectionist policies against Third World products continues, Castro predicted a drastic deterioration in Latin American social conditions.

The Cuban president asserted: "We are approaching the conditions that caused the classic revolutions, such as the French and October Revolutions. We are approaching the beginning of social uprisings caused by unsatisfactory material conditions, which are uncontrollable once they break out."

Fidel Castro expressed the need for Latin Americans to prepare a strategic plan for Latin America as "one of our most essential duties."

Concerning the Angolan situation, Castro said that the talks are about to end in an agreement, in which the only pending point will be the establishment of gradual withdrawal dates for the Cuban contingent.

He said the points of agreement are the independence of Namibia; the cessation of all South African aid to the Angolan National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) guerrilla group; international and UN guarantees for an end to the South African aggression against Angola once the Cuban troops leave; and the gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops.

The news conference given by the Cuban leader was held amid very tight security measures, which Castro justified because of previous attacks on him, although "It was worth the risk to be here with you," he added.

It was said unofficially that Castro wants to visit the Galapagos Islands, 1,000 km off the Pacific Coast of Ecuador, but according to his own statements to the press, he will return to Cuba today, although for security reasons his plans are still unconfirmed.

On Hopes for Year 2000

FL1308174088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] When this newscast was set to go on the air, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's news conference in Quito was still going on. The news conference was for a group of Ecuadoran and foreign journalists. Here is an excerpt of Fidel's answers to questions from the journalists:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What are the plans, the goals for the year 2000?

[Castro, chuckling] Well, everyone thinks about the year 2000. There is hardly any political leader today who does not talk about the year 2000. I believe President Borja in his speech said that the country should get ready for the year 2000, (?look) for solutions to the problems of the year 2000. It is a habit for the human mind to set goals, to fix on dates. But I believe that we should now not only think about the year 2000 but a bit beyond. We have development plans prepared 20 years in advance; they are general development lines or perhaps for 15 years. We have also set the year 2000 [words indistinct]. I can talk to you about some things. For example, medicine. We have prepared and put into practice the development plans for 35 clinical surgical specialties up to the year 2000. I can tell you the number of doctors we will have in the year 2000. We are going to have 65,000 doctors. We are graduating 3,000 per year. I feel that it is a goal that might be exceeded if we do not take some measures, such as reducing enrollment in some way in the schools of medicine.

In general, we prepare social development programs on the basis of the country's needs. I can tell you that in the year 2000, we have [words indistinct] housing. We have programs for 1990 so that we can build 20,000 units per year in the capital. We hope to reach 250,000 by the year 2000. This program began earlier, since 1988 [as heard]. We have plans to build schools for the year 2000. We have development plans for the year 2000. I believe that the [words indistinct] are a motivation for the way we are going to welcome the beginning of the third millennium.

We are not waiting for the year 2000 to solve big problems in our country. [Words indistinct] We believe that by the year 2,000 we will have a much greater level of technological, scientific development, a much greater level of economic development. We think we will have solved many problems by then. I do not think that there is any government in the world, whether socialist or capitalist, progressive or conservative, that in some way is not thinking of the year 2000. They usually use it as a point of reference. I hope that the year 2000 will find Latin America more integrated, more [word indistinct].

I hope that the problem of the foreign debt will be settled by the year 2000 and that the new international economic order will be in place. I hope that we will be much less dependent than we are today on economic powers. I hope that we will be much more free in the year 2000. I am convinced that our peoples, the Latin American peoples, will reach those (?objectives). The year 2000 should not be important for just one country [words indistinct] socialism, but something important for all countries, especially those of the Third World. I don't know what the problems of the developed capitalist countries may be. I don't know how alienated or chaotic those consumer societies might

be or how high the level of AIDS, and drugs in those consumer societies might be. I hope they can also solve their problems. [end recording]

Marks 62d Birthday

FL1308125288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1232 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said he considers his friendship with famous Ecuadoran painter Oswaldo Guayasamin as a great privilege. He was speaking during an emotional exchange with Guayasamin which ended in an strong embrace. A reception was held at the painter's residence in Quito which began last night and lasted through the early morning hours of today. Political and intellectual figures from Ecuador and other countries attended the reception.

Fidel spoke in a simple and colloquial style when all those present expressed their well wishes when midnight came around and the leader of the Cuban revolution became 62 years old. Trying to hide his emotion, Fidel referred to the party held at Guayasamin's home to celebrate his birthday. This is the first time that I celebrate my birthday away from Cuba voluntarily. Twice before I was exiled and two other times I was in jail prior to the revolutionary triumph, Fidel remarked on an intimate and personal note.

Announcing that he will conclude his visit to Ecuador today, our commander in chief said: I have felt very happy here, and this is one of the happiest days in my life. He then described his friendship with the great painter Guayasamin as a privilege. Fidel jokingly commented that Guayasamin's mural for the Ecuadoran congress, which bears the initials "CIA" as a symbol of U.S. interference in Latin America, is going to be one of the most famous paintings, or at least the one that became famous the fastest. Fidel reiterated that he was very happy during his stay in Ecuador because of the warmth of the welcome accorded to him by the people and government. I want to dedicate these feelings to the people of Ecuador, to the extraordinary sons of Ecuador such as this one, my brother Guayasamin, Castro concluded.

Scorns Shultz Quito Visit

FL1308140388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has said that his friendship with famous painter Oswaldo Guayasamin is a great privilege. [passage omitted] A reception was held last night at Guayasamin's residence attended by political and intellectual figures from Ecuador and other countries. [passage omitted]

In an exchange with Guayasamin in the festive and humorous atmosphere, Fidel said that the mural he painted for the Ecuadoran congress and which bears the initials of the CIA as a symbol of U.S. interference in Latin America is going to be one of the most famous paintings, or at least the one that became famous most quickly. Fidel added that this stemmed from the fact that someone did more than the painter himself. This was imperialism because thanks to its arrogance, the mural had become famous very quickly. Fidel parodied Karl Marx's famous phrase when he said that the specter now going around the world is Guayasamin's mural.

Amid the guests' laughter, the Cuban leader told of Secretary of State George Shultz' arrival for at the congress for Rodrigo Borja's inauguration. I thought many things at that moment, he confided. [Words indistinct] because there was a big difference between this gentleman and the rest of those present. Fidel asserted that Shultz looked like a caricature of power. He looked flustered; perhaps the phrase caricature of imperialism might not be inaccurate because imperialism is beginning to look like a caricature. Fidel also said that some people remarked to him afterward that the U.S. official looked at Guayasamin's mural out of the corner of his eye, seeing the three initials, CIA, which caused such a commotion.

Fidel reiterated that this was one of the happiest days in his life and that he was very happy during his stay in Ecuador because of the very warm welcome accorded by the Ecuadoran people and government.

Departs Quito for Havana

PA1308215488 Paris AFP in Spanish 2123 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Quito, 13 Aug (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro returned to Cuba today at 1542 (2042 GMT) after attending the inauguration ceremonies of Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja along with seven other heads of state. Borja saw Castro off at the airport. [passage omitted]

For security reasons, no information was given at the airport on the flight plan of the Cuban leader's plane on his return to Havana.

Iranian Advisor Meets With Soares, Alfonsin

LD1208092388 Tehran IRNA in English 0856 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 12, (IRNA)—Senior presidential advisor Mostafa Mir Salim, currently in Quito on the first leg of his 2-nation tour of Ecuador and Argentina, yesterday held separate talks with the Portuguese and Argentine presidents.

Portugese President Mario Lopes Soares, who is in Quito to participate in the oath-taking ceremony of Ecuador's newly-elected President Rodrigo Borja, wished success for both the Iranian government and nation and hoped that an honorable and lasting peace would be established in the Middle East.

The Portuguese president also sent his best regards and sincere greetings to his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

In response, Mir Salim briefed President Soares on reasons for Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 seeking to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

The Iranian envoy also met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin who is to take part in President Borja's oath-taking ceremony.

Also on Thursday, Mir salim discussed with Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez the latest developments in the Iraqi-imposed war and Iranian leaders' decision to accept the Security Council Resolution 598.

Cordovez, calling for promotion of Tehran-Quito ties in various fields, expressed hope that the two countries could cooperate in international organizations, particularly OPEC.

Peru

Garcia Supports Stand of Delegation to Ecuador

PY1308034288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Today President Alan Garcia congratulated the Peruvian delegation to the Ecuadoran presidential inauguration headed by Vice President Sanchez and expressed his support for their position. President Garcia emphasized the importance of respecting international treaties and said that by not respecting these treaties, nations make integration and international harmony more difficult.

[Begin Garcia recording] I would like to make known to all the position of the Peruvian Government and my personal position regarding the incident a few days ago at the Ecuadoran presidential inauguration.

Without sensationalism, prudently but firmly, we must say that the national territory cannot be discussed or negotiated. We must also say that respect for international treaties is the fundamental principle for the coexistence of the nations.

To say that there is a conflict over an issue already covered in a treaty, which was signed by the two countries involved and certified and guaranteed by other countries, does not contribute to integrated and harmonious coexistence.

I believe good relations must be based on a calm, responsible, and unwaivering acceptance of the 1942 protocol terms, which have been fully enforced. I must tell all Peruvians that I congratulate the Peruvian delegation headed by Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez, and I support their decision not to attend the installation ceremony in view of the difficulties that could have arisen.

I firmly believe the position of the Peruvian Government is simply this: National territory cannot be discussed, negotiated, or (?reviewed). [end recording]

Deputies on Borja Speech

PY1208152588 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Deputy Carlos Blancas Bustamante, former justice minister, said that he regrets the statement made by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja about alleged border problems with Peru.

Blancas criticized the attitude of some Ecuadoran politicians who, as an excuse for some domestic problems, pretended to ignore the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. [passage omitted]

Blancas said he expects President Borja to rectify his statement, which was made as a result of overenthusiasm, or of tension, among some Ecuadoran political sectors. Blancas de Bustamante made this statement at the airport before departing for Trujillo. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Deputies President Hector Vargas Haya described the Peruvian delegation's decision not to attend the Ecuadoran presidential inauguration as an honorable and understandable attitude.

He said that the Peruvian delgation's attitude is natural, logical, and understandable according to its mission to Ecuador. Vargas Haya nonetheless said he was perplexed by the behavior of the host country, which, according to protocol principles, should demonstrate respect and cordiality to its visitors. This was not the case with our delegation, the Chamber of Deputies president said. [passage omitted]

Senate President Romualdo Biaggi Rodriguez regretted the statement made by new Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja about alleged border problems with Peru.

[Begin Biaggi recording] It is a pity that, while the rest of the Latin American countries are making an effort to reaffirm continental unity, the Ecuadoran president should have made such an unfortunate statement which reveals a lack of shrewdness and prudence. [passage omitted]

Peru maintains an attitude of integration. Borjas referred to a subject that has been definitely resolved through the Peace and Border Friendship Treaty signed in 1842. It is a very clear, irreversible treaty, guaranteed by four countries: the United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Senator Biaggi also said that Borja's statements are not in keeping with the attitude shown by President Alan Garcia, who cordially visited the Ecuadoran Embassy to stress the Peruvian desire for integration and respect toward Ecuador. [passage omitted]